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14 March 2018 Vol 25 • Issue 11 www.champnews.com

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Visitors flock to nostalgia event in village

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Senior Aircraftman Andrew Brooks

Aircraftman to fulfil childhood dream... and fly in back seat with the Red Arrows!

SENIOR Aircraftman Andrew Brooks who hails from West Lancashire will fulfil his childhood dream this summer... flying in the back seat with the world-famous Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, The Red Arrows.

Andrew is one of a ten-strong team of engineers known as the 'Circus Blues', who has been assigned to a specific aircraft and pilot throughout the 2018 display season.

He will travel as a passenger in one of the Red Arrows' two-seat Hawk aircraft in transit flights to over 80 display venues throughout the UK and Europe - flying at speeds of more than 350mph. Continued inside

WE'RE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Crime chiefs claim closure of station counters 'will not change how the areas are policed'

Ormskirk Police Station

Report by **Henry James**

POLICE chiefs have acted to reassure residents that the closure of front desks at police stations 'will not change how the areas are policed'.

Ormskirk Police station front counter will close on Thursday, March 29 along with others across Lancashire after a review showed that the number of people who use the service has continued to fall.

Skelmersdale Police Station front counter service will change from being open from 9am to 8pm Monday to Sunday to being open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Insp Martin Bishop, who has led on the review, said: "I must emphasise that the police stations themselves will not be closing and the closure of the front counter service will not change how the areas will be policed.

"Our review of the front counter service shows that usage continues to fall. Some of this is due to changes to processes such as immigration checks and some vehicle checks which are moving online, but in the main it is due to improved technology and greater use of phones as well as online reporting via our website.

"Members of the public will still be able to contact local officers, engage with local policing teams and gain the help and support they need."

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "I want to reiterate that this decision will not change the way areas are policed, local policing teams will still be based and work in communities. ***More inside***

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Aughton Park Railway Station.

Man stole boy's bike at railway station and then threatened to kill him

By Lynda Roughley

A MAN with a "serious interest in bikes" grabbed a mountain bicycle from a schoolboy at Aughton Park Railway Station and threatened to kill him and his friend before riding off on it.

Liverpool Crown Court heardon Monday, March 13 how Kevin Holloway, 41, from Litherland, targeted the 12-year-old just after he met a friend at the station on a Saturday lunchtime.

The boy had got on the train at Ormskirk with his £320 Carrera Vengeance mountain bike and Holloway was already in the same carriage.

The boy, who noticed the defendant kept looking at him and his bike, got off the train at the next stop and was closely followed by Holloway, said Paul Woods, prosecuting.

"He met up with his 12-year-old friend on the platform and the man walked ahead of the two friends. He was looking back at the boys and quickly making his way to the top of the staircase.

"The friends helped each other carry the bike to the top of the stairs, then Holloway struck.

"He didn't look at the boy but came to him and with one hand grabbed the bar grip of the bike and grabbed his shoulder with his other hand.

"When the boy tried to hold on he grabbed his arm and said 'give me your bike or I will kill you'."

After grabbing the bike Holloway then rode off while yelling at the victim's friend: "I'm coming after you now, kid." The pair then ran into the booking office in fear.

Mr Wood said that in an impact statement the victim said that "he felt really scared, and scared about seeing the man again and hasn't felt confident to be able to use the trains as he did previously."

Mr Wood added the second boy's victim impact statement revealed how he had wanted to work with trains when he grew up but no longer has these dreams.

Holloway was traced after a CCTV appeal was circulated. He said he did not know what he had done with the bike, which has never been recovered.

When arrested Holloway admitted having a special interest in bikes and admitted collecting them and having photographs of them.

Holloway, of Ford Lane, Litherland, pleaded guilty to robbery.

Sarah Holt, defending, said Holloway suffers depression and anxiety and struggles with mental health issues.

She added he had no previous convictions for violence, has never been in prison and "is very sorry for that which he did".

Jailing him for 16 months the judge, Recorder Peter Birkett QC, said, "You identified a mountain bike being in the possession of a 12-year-old schoolboy as a mountain bike that you decided you wanted for yourself.

"You grabbed the bike from him. You grabbed the boy by the shoulder. You made threats and you rode off with this 12-year-old boy's bike and he's never seen it since."

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Police reassure public over counter closures

From page 1

"This was not an easy decision to make but years of shrinking budgets have meant Lancashire Constabulary have had to make savings of over £72 million since 2010, with an estimated £18 million in further savings still to find. The front counters which are closing serve as few as three members of the public a day but we will be able to make savings of around £1.5m.

"People have been voting with their feet for some time and we have to look at using our resources to meet the demand which is coming into the contact centre and moving online.

"Whilst closing front counters is not something we want to do, this is part of the ongoing work to meet the funding gap which we continue to manage, with the Government again failing to provide any extra money for policing in Lancashire."

Staffing front counters currently costs Lancashire Constabulary £2.8m a year.

Front counters mainly provide a service for people to answer their bail conditions, sex offender registrations, immigration checks, handing over or collecting property and presenting car insurance as well as 'meet and greet' for visitors such as legal representatives.

Hospital Trust told it still needs to improve

Report by **Kenny Parker**

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk NHS Trust has been rated as 'needing improvement' for the second time in two years by the regulator of health and social care services in England, which has also rated it Inadequate in its leadership.

The trust, which runs Ormskirk and District General Hospital, was rated as Requires Improvement overall in the latest report by the Care Quality Commission.

Inspectors rated it Inadequate for services being well-led; Requires Improvement for safety, effectiveness and responsiveness and Good for caring.

The previous report, released in November 2016, also rated the trust as Requires Improvement overall.

The CQC said the 'well led' rating was based upon an inspection of the trust's management, and leadership in individual services.

MP Rosie Cooper said the findings were disappointing and the result of not having a fixed overall leadership in place.

Ormskirk and District General Hospital

Rosie Cooper MP said: "This disappointing CQC report simply isn't good enough and shows what happens in the absence of a permanent CEO and poses further threats to the future of services in this area.

"I look forward to Silas Nichols starting work in April and seeing much needed rapid improvement."

Sheila Lloyd, executive director of Nursing, Midwifery and Therapies at the trust said the report had "recognised the effect over the past two years of not having an established leadership team for stability" but said the trust had continued to make "steady improvements" in maternity care.

She said: "The report is another milestone on the trust's journey to keep improving care for patients. This is evident in the steady improvements in maternity care at Ormskirk Hospital. Theses are recognised not only by CQC but by patients too. Their feedback last year ranked the service 11th best in England.

"Other improvements mean our wards are better organised for the benefit of both patients and staff.

"A much-needed day surgery unit opened at Ormskirk Hospital in February followed by hyper-acute stroke beds at Southport earlier this month.

"Once again, the CQC scored us Good for caring with the compassionate one-to-one care in A&E highlighted in particular. The £1.25m building work now under way there will improve privacy and dignity for patients.

"The CQC also recognised the effect over the past two years of not having an established trust leadership team.

"We are fortunate that Silas Nicholls, a highly respected and experienced NHS leader, joins us as permanent chief executive on April 3 as an anchor for stability."

Water leisure park plan floated for Lydiate site

A LARGE leisure park and nature reserve could be created near Lydiate.

Under proposals floated by a local landowner, a leisure park including water sports facilities, a mountain bike track and zip wire would be created on a 22 acre site close to the village.

The development would be built on what is currently agricultural land off Hall Lane and Southport Road in Lydiate.

Access would be off Southport Road with a car park on the site

No formal planning application has been made yet but a pre-planning application was submitted to Sefton Council late last year.

Residents who attended a presentation to Lydiate Parish Council last week were told that soil taken from creating the lakes would be used on site to mound up the mountain bike track.

They were told that it was hoped the facility would attract up to 200 visitors on a busy day with a charge of around £5 for access.

It is anticipated the site would not be used much in the winter and no floodlighting is planned.

It would be run by a staff of around six people.

Andrew to take flight with the Red Arrows

From page 1

Once his aircraft arrives at the display's operating base, Andrew is responsible for servicing the aircraft before it can fly again.

Andrew was educated in West Lancashire, attending Cobbs Brow Primary School and Lathom High School before completing a BTEC National Diploma in Sports Coaching, Development and Fitness at Skelmersdale College.

He said: "Being selected for 2018 Circus was amazing. When it was announced I couldn't believe it, to have the opportunity to fly in the back seat of the Red Arrows Hawk T1 is an amazing experience and something I never thought I would do this early in my RAF career."

As Circus 4, Andrew has been paired with Red 4, Flight Lieutenant Chris Lyndon-Smith.

Andrew has worked on Chinook helicopters and has completed detachments to the Middle East and spent time on HMS Illustrious during his time at RAF Odiham.

Officially known as the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows showcase the excellence of the RAF and represent the United Kingdom both at home and overseas.

The team consists of nine display pilots and more than 100 support personnel and technicians. Each of the pilots has previous fast jet operational experience flying the Tornado or the Typhoon, enabling the RAF to secure the skies and protect the nation and its interests, 365-days a year.

One of the world's premier aerobatic teams, the Red Arrows had completed 4,660 displays, in 57 countries, by the end of 2017. Flying Hawk jets, the team is based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire.

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West Lancs deputy Mayor Coun Noel Delaney with some of the exhibitors at the nostalgia event

Visitors flock to nostalgia event

MORE than a thousand visitors enjoyed a trip back into West Lancashire's past thanks to a joint exhibition held by various history and heritage groups from the borough.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

The event at Burscough's Stanley Club held over a weekend was opened by the deputy mayor, Cllr Noel Delaney.

Michael Dawson, founder of Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas, and organiser of the nostalgia festival said it was a 'massive success.'

Mr Dawson said: "It was very busy both days with more than a 1,000 visitors.

"Groups in attendance included Paul Smith of Ormskirk Museum; Richard Houghton of Lathom & Burscough Military Heritage Society; Ormskirk & District Family History Society, and Burscough Heritage Group.

"I'd like to thank the deputy mayor for opening the event and also Lawrence Critchley and Debra Baldwin (fellow local historians with IBSA). But most of all I have to thank all the people that came along over the two days and kindly brought along photos for me to scan.

"It was great to see so many people just chatting away to one another creating a wonderful community spirit.

"Please check out the Facebook page 'Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas' to see 1000s more photos of our local area."

Cllr Noel Delaney, said: "This was a marvellous event and I thoroughly enjoyed attending and seeing so much local history on display. It must have taken a huge amount of work to pull everything together and I'd like to congratulate everyone involved."

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County council agrees to spend £30m on roads, lights and bridges

Schemes are approved across West Lancashire

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet has agreed a £30m programme to renew vital transport infrastructure including roads, streetlights, and bridges.

Over £10m of this has been set aside for work to fix potholes, carry out minor repairs and prevent potholes occurring, and includes £2m to address problems on 47 residential roads where potholes are occurring most frequently. A further £8m is being invested in maintaining the busiest routes, with 68 schemes to renew A, B and C roads.

If approved by the full council, roads in West Lancs planned for resurfacing include Hoole Lane (between Church Road and Station Road), while surface dressing maintenance works are planned for numerous roads; the most expensive being Windgate, Tarleton (from Church Road to the roundabout at Carr House Lane), Beacon Lane and Higher Lane, Skelmersdale, and Liverpool Road, Ormskirk (between A565 to Manor Farm).

Works to bridges include the replacement of the foot bridge over the railway line at Bridge Street in Ormskirk.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Lancashire's roads are vital to our economy, ensuring people and goods can travel efficiently, and it's essential that we prioritise funding accordingly to keep them in good condition.

"The weather this winter has been worse than average, which is why we've been dealing with so many potholes over recent months.

"We know that good roads are a priority for residents and businesses which is why we have put £10m into this year's budget to fix potholes, as well as make structural repairs which will help to prevent them appearing in the first place.

"This maintenance programme will extend the life of our roads and entirely replace some of the most worn-out surfaces. We'll also be patching many small sections where areas of potholes have appeared over the winter, with the warmer weather allowing us to make good quality repairs and minimise the need for repeat visits in the same locations."

The council says the repairs are being made in line with a 15-year plan to improve the health of Lancashire's highway infrastructure which focuses on using survey data to decide when it's the best time to carry out preventative maintenance, before more expensive repairs or replacement are needed.

The programme also includes £1m to prevent flooding by upgrading and maintaining drainage systems, as well as £0.5m for schemes to improve road safety, and £0.5m for cycle safety.

Drainage works in West Lancs include the replacement of a highway drain at Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, and drain relining at North Moor Lane and Small Lane North, Halsall, and Pinfold Lane, Scarisbrick.

County Cllr Iddon added: "The flooding which has affected the county at times over recent years mean that it's more important than ever that our drainage systems are well-maintained and working to full capacity.

"We're also continuing to make our roads safer, and a number of schemes will be delivered to prevent collisions and improve junctions and pedestrian crossing facilities to make it easier for people to walk and cycle."

The funding announcement follows claims by the Labour group that the Tory administration underspent in their highways budget by nearly £7million in the financial year 2017/18.

Labour members say the statistics were uncovered during a Q&A session with leading finance and highways officers at Lancashire County Council.

Skelmersdale East County Councillor John Fillis commented: "In the face of unprecedented public dissatisfaction with the state of Lancashire's roads officers predicted that the underspent from the Highways Budget was £6.9m.

"This is on top of the £3m which the Conservative administration has already accepted that they failed to spend on estate roads.

"It became evident during the meeting that the money would not be spent this year and there were no plans to spend the money next year.

County Councillor Geoff Driver, Tory leader of Lancashire County Council, responded: "There simply is no underspending of the highways repairs budget.

"We have only changed the way it is financed in order to help the council through the serious financial challenges it faces.

"The Labour Group's comments demonstrates yet again that they do not understand local government finance which explains why they have left the Council in such a mess."

Repairs have 'gone to pot'

THE county council highways department has defended repairs to potholes which 'failed' after just four days.

Rufford resident Graham Martin said he was delighted to see a pothole being repaired on Liverpool Road North where it crosses the canal in Burscough on Thursday March 1.

However, by the Friday he says he noticed it was already uneven and took photos on Monday which showed they had deteriorated considerably and were degrading back to potholes.

He said: "The standard of this work was an utter disgrace. We are constantly reminded by our elected representatives of how financial resources are stretched in all directions and yet money can be wasted on this pathetic effort at a repair. If this is at all typical of the standard of road maintenance throughout the area then we can all expect to shell out even more in council tax to pay for repeat repairs and more in vehicle repair bills!"

The potholes on Liverpool Road North, Burscough, just four days after they had been repaired.

In response County Councillor Keith Iddon, said: "We always try to make a permanent repair to a pothole on the first visit: we clear out the hole, cut the tarmac around it and then fill it with hot tarmac and compact it with either a roller or vibrating plate.

"However the quality of repair that can be achieved is affected by the weather and is more difficult in wet and cold conditions. The final months of 2017 were particularly wet, and the wet and freezing weather we've been having since has created the perfect conditions for potholes to form."

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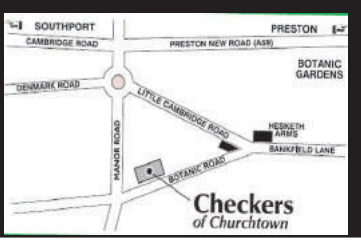

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Tim and Heather with one of their latest models which will feature in a Fairground and Transport show

Life is a rollercoaster for fairground model maker

Report by **Henry James**

A WAGON driver from Skelmersdale who makes model fairground rides and exhibited them last year to raise funds for Queenscourt Hospice, is to do it all over again!

Tim O'Connor, 56, who used to live in Southport, is holding the exhibition of his work at the Stanley Club, in Burscough, on Sunday, March 25 from 11am-4pm.

He decided to collect money for the Southport-based hospice as they looked after his wife, Beryl, before she died from cancer. At the free event, Tim, from Earlswood, will again showcase his models of fairground attractions including waltzers, ghost trains and a moon rocket, which are based on rides from the 50s and 60s.

People will be able to see a Diamond T, which is an American truck used in the Second World War. It will be parked outside the Stanley Club.

Tim said: "Last year's event was a success, so I have decided to do it again. Hopefully people who missed it last year will be able to come this time."

Visitors will also be able to see a model of the Speedway, a ride which used to be found at Southport fair. Tim has worked on this with his girlfriend, Heather.

Tim added: "The ride was like a waltzer, and it had wooden motorbikes on it. Heather helped me make the model. We worked on it from May to November last year.

"I always start my models by drawing a circle, using the clock off the wall."

Tim works at Martland's Skip Hire, and has been making fairground models for as long as he can remember. He has exhibited his work at shows up and down the country.

The day will again be sponsored by Silcock's Amusements and Martland's Skip Hire. Tim is hoping to recruit some more exhibitors.

Bike hire bosses create quirky route guide for keen cyclists

A BIKE hire scheme which has facilities in West Lancashire is celebrating the best 'off the beaten track' cycle rides with a new free publication.

Bike & Go, which has bike hire facilities at train stations including Ormskirk, is publishing their Quirky Bike Rides Guide to coincide with English Tourism Week, which runs from Saturday March 17- Sunday, March 25.

It has been compiled with the help of cyclists who responded to an appeal by the bike hire scheme for people to submit their favourite alternative routes.

The guide, which can be downloaded free of charge from bikeandgo.co.uk from this Saturday (March 17) celebrates the best quirky cycling places across Southport, Liverpool and the Wirral.

David O'Leary, director of Bike & Go said: "English Tourism Week comes at the start of the cycling season, and provides a great opportunity for people to take to two wheels and see their own towns and cities from a brand new perspective.

"I'd like to thank the cycling community who have been really keen to get on board with this and help encourage those who rarely use a bike to have some fun with cycling and we hope that people will enjoy trying out their suggested routes."

Funeral directors support hospice

MLS Independent Funeral Directors are launching an appeal for West Lancs residents to donate Easter eggs for Claire House Children's Hospice.

The hospice, which is based in Wirral, provides specialist nursing care for seriously and terminally ill children and emotional support for their families. Donated chocolate eggs can be dropped off at either of the funeral company's premises at 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, or 22 Liverpool Road North, Burscough.

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NHS body warns of 'worrying decline in organ donations

Report by **Henry James**

NHS Blood and Transplant has warned of a worrying decline in living kidney donation in Lancashire as new national figures hit an eight year low.

There were 990 living kidney donors in the UK during 2017, a 10% decline on the highest ever year, 2013, and the lowest figure since 2009.

In Lancashire, there were only 21 living kidney donors in 2017, compared to 30 in 2013. There are currently 107 people waiting for a kidney in Lancashire and 44 people from Lancashire have died on the transplant waiting list waiting for a kidney in the last five years.

The figures were released to coincide with World Kidney Day (March 8) with an appeal for more people to consider making a life-transforming donation while they are still alive.

The decline is worrying because living kidney donation has always been a success story in the UK, accounting for more than 40% of all donors and a third of all kidney transplants for people waiting.

For suitable patients, transplantation is normally the best treatment for end stage kidney disease compared with dialysis. A transplant from a living kidney donor is the best chance of a successful transplant.

The proposed 'opt out' systems being considered for different UK countries, and the one already in place in Wales, do not affect living donation.

Most living donations are between family and friends. People can also choose to donate altruistically, when their kidney is matched anonymously to a suitable person on the waiting list.

Lisa Burnapp, NHS Blood and Transplant lead nurse for Kidney Donation, said: "Last year, 261 people died in the UK waiting for a kidney transplant, and many of those lives could have been saved through increased living kidney donation.

Organ transport box in theatre

"Living donation has been a major success story for the UK, with one in three patients receiving a kidney transplant from a living donor, so the decline in Lancashire and around the UK is worrying.

"We are investigating the causes and working closely with the clinical community, NHS England and Health Departments in all four UK countries to reverse the trend.

"Anonymous altruistic donations are especially important because they can start transplant chains. It's no coincidence that the high figures for 2013 came when altruistic donation was at its highest ever level."

Altruistic donations can start chains of up to three transplants through the UK's kidney sharing schemes. However the number of altruistic donations has declined from a high of 107 in 2013 to 87 in 2017.

In the UK living kidney transplants have been performed since 1960.

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A small army of volunteers about to hit the streets of Ormskirk town centre to play their part in the Great British Spring Clean.

Businessman helps with Church Street spruce up

ORMSKIRK Town Centre received a boost to its appearance when buildings on Church Street got a spring clean.

Local businessman Luis Stockton, who owns premises in the area, cleaned up the exterior of his properties following requests from local councillors.

Some residents had contacted Ormskirk's Scott Ward Councillor, Noel Delaney and County Councillor Nikki Hennessy to ask if improvements could be made to buildings within the town centre. Cllrs Delaney and Hennessy met with Mr Stockton to discuss the appearance of the site and what work could be carried out.

Cllr Delaney said: "When we approached Mr Stockton to meet with us, he was only too happy to oblige. He was delighted that we had contacted him and was eager to know how he could contribute to improving the appearance of the town centre.

"I'm sure local residents and visitors to the town centre will agree that the area is looking a lot more pleasant and we will continue to work with local retailers to boost the town."

Mr Stockton said: "As a local businessman and West Lancashire resident, I'm investing in the town centre because I think Ormskirk is a fabulous place to work, live and socialise.

I want to support residents and visitors by ensuring my site is kept clean and tidy."

Councillor Noel Delaney, Luis Stockton and County Councillor Nikki Hennessy.

'Heroes' turn out to clean up town

YOUNG and old braved the recent cold snap to help give the town centre an early spring clean.

Our West Lancashire had put out a call for volunteers to help with the event, as part of Keep Britain Tidy's national Great British Spring Clean.

Adrian Owens, OWL Councillor for Derby ward, said: "The slogan of their national campaign was 'Heroes Assemble' and certainly the 20 or so people who came out in the very cold weather were local heroes."

Volunteers ranged from primary school age to retirees and consisted of Our West Lancashire members and supporters, local residents, and members of local churches - Ormskirk Christian Fellowship and Christ Church, Aughton.

Cllr Owens said OWL were motivated to hold the event after receiving several comments from residents about the poor appearance of the alleyways leading from the car parks into the main shopping areas.

"These alleyways are often the first part of Ormskirk which is seen by visitors after parking their cars," he said, "We were delighted with the difference which we were able to make."

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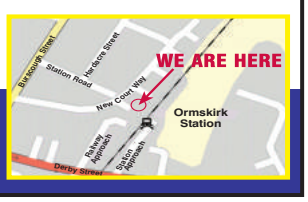

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Martin Mere news

The award winning canoe safari and boat tours at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre are re-opening on Saturday 24 March, offering adults and children lots of fun exploring the wetland through open water, woodlands, wet grassland and reedbed as well as seeing the wildlife that call the canoe safari home.

As well as the canoe safari, the pond zone is also re-opening on 24 March offering the families the chance to delve into our ponds and see what creatures they can find lurking beneath the surface. This is a free activity open everyday of the Easter holidays from 11am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3pm.

Victoria Fellowes, Marketing Manager, said: "Just 8 years ago, the area that is now the canoe safari was a large field that we once grazed sheep on. It is amazing to see how it has matured and we have created fantastic habitat that species such as kingfisher, heron, little grebe and watervoles have made their home; and you can get great sightings of these species as well as carp, moorhen and robin as well as listening to the sound of woodpeckers and bird calls. It is one of the most popular experiences we offer at Martin Mere in the spring and summer and a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to get immersed in nature in a tranquil relaxing atmosphere."

Take our guided boat tour learning all about Martin Mere whilst listening to our knowledgeable staff and volunteers tell you all about the amazing scenery and wildlife as well as the history of Martin Mere. You could also take a self guided tour of the wetland in one of the canoes, taking your time to enjoy all the scenery that Martin Mere has to offer.

Canoes can hold up to three people and cost £8.00 for the hour rental; the guided boat tour is available from £3.00 per person for a 30 minute guided tour. The boats seat 8 people and can also accommodate 2 wheelchairs.

There are no age restrictions to go on the canoe safari, although the person must be able to fit into the supplied life jacket. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The attraction will be open every day from 11am to 4pm.

WWT Martin Mere is still looking for volunteers to support the canoe safari and pond dipping activities at the centre – search WWT volunteer online to find out more and make an application.

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 4.30pm (6pm from 24 March) and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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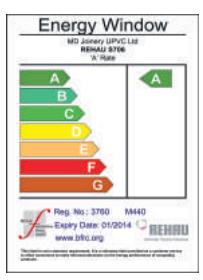

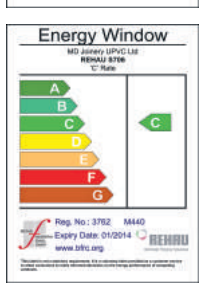

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Council plans to set up new development company for borough

Report by **Kenny Parker**

It will... 'help generate income for the authority through Council Tax and Business Rates to support front-line services and more exciting projects'

WEST Lancs Council is planning to form a new development company to help the authority deliver ambitious and exciting projects for local people.

The council has worked on several successful major projects for housing, and for commerce, including in Firbeck, Skelmersdale, the current Westec development in Ormskirk, and the Greenwood Business Centre, Skelmersdale.

The new company will do a number of things including building new homes for sale and rent and shared ownership houses, which are geared towards helping people take their first steps towards home ownership.

At its meeting on February 28 the council's cabinet agreed to progress the project and agreed an implementation plan which could see the company go live in autumn this year, provided all final arrangements are approved by the council.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of the council and portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration, said: "By setting up the company, initially in shadow format, the council will be making significant progress towards this key project.

Council leader Labour Councillor Ian Moran.

"One of the council's top priorities is to be ambitious for the local economy by developing commercial and residential property. This would help support new and growing businesses, retain and grow jobs and increase the number of residents in the area.

"The development company will help the council achieve that and generate income for the authority through Council Tax and Business Rates to support front-line services and more exciting projects."

To development company will be given key objectives. These include:

- Creating a focus on delivery and providing a mechanism for the council to build new homes for sale and rent, regeneration and commercial and industrial schemes.
- Securing additional private and Government investment into the borough.
- Creating relationships with landowners, developers and investors which deliver financial and regeneration benefits.
- Maximising appropriate development and accelerating growth by providing property and commercial expertise.

The cabinet decision is subject to the council's call-in process and its anticipated that a report to councillors in the autumn will seek the final approval for this project.

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Health experts are keeping us on our feet, says MP

Rosie backs campaign to highlight unique role of podiatrists

MP Rosie Cooper joined the College of Podiatry in Parliament to give her backing to the launch of a new report.

The event highlighted the unique role of podiatrists in tackling some of the biggest healthcare challenges facing people in West Lancashire.

The report, 'Podiatry: Driving value, improving outcomes - The vital role of podiatry in keeping our population active – saving lives and saving limbs' covers three key areas in which podiatrists contribute their expertise and demonstrate their value. They are: 1. Diabetes and vascular disease, specifically foot ulceration and amputation prevention, conditions which costs the NHS around £1 billion per year. 2. Falls prevention, particularly among the elderly, which costs the NHS and social care around £2.3bn every year, and rising. 3. Musculoskeletal conditions, which consume around 5% of the NHS budget.

The report has found that early intervention by local podiatrists has the potential to improve mobility and independence in people who experience foot health problems.

Despite the strong recommendation from NICE, the organisation responsible for producing clinical guidance, a Freedom of Information Request carried out in 2017 (with a response rate of 87%) found that 29% of Clinical Commissioning Groups do not commission a foot protection service.

A further FOI sent to hospital trusts revealed that a third of trusts which responded do not operate a dedicated falls prevention team, and of the 67% that do, only 4% include a podiatrist in that team.

Supporters say podiatrists are under-utilised across the health and care system, avoiding critical chances to tackle problems before they escalate.

Rosie Cooper MP

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper said: "I support Podiatry and its vital role in prevention and improving outcomes for patients.

"It is important to recognise the value of local podiatrists who are working day-in-day-out to keep people on their feet, living life independently and to its full potential.

"I would like to thank all podiatrists, and others working in multidisciplinary health and care teams across West Lancashire for their professional care and support."

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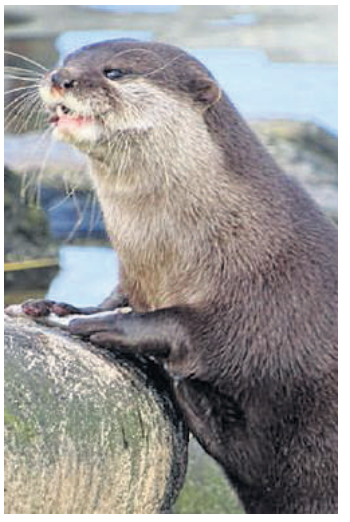


Youngster sets his sights on snapping wildlife...

...and the results are simply stunning!

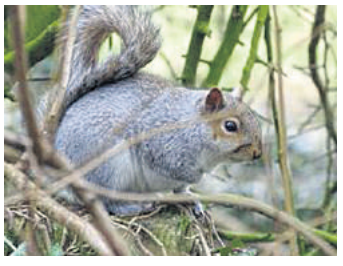
A BUDDING teenage David Attenborough has not let the recent cold snap hold him back from his burgeoning talent as a wildlife photographer.

Champion reader Liam Barber, 13, saved up for a Sony camera, which he bought in January after years of taking photographs of wildlife on his camera phone.

He has taken stunning photographs of birds and animals during the last few weeks, including robins, otters, squirrels, swans and ducks...and even a kingfisher.

His sister Sasha Barber said: "We are so proud of Liam, he is so talented. He's just been getting used to the camera but already the photographs that he is taking are stunning."

Budding photographer Liam Barber with his camera



Stage is set for musicians to show off their talent!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A MUSIC company has launched a competition for budding young musicians in Sefton and West Lancs to battle it out for a chance to spend a day at its professional recording studio.

The contest which will take place at Ormskirk Civic Hall on Friday, June 22 is open to anyone aged 7-17 years old, whether soloist, duo or band and will have two age categories. from approximately 7-12 and 13-17.

The organiser, Sound Affects, says entrants can perform either covers, or their own original material.

Studio supervisor and events coordinator, Rosa Weiner, says the acts will receive constructive feedback from the judges, which will allow them to assess their performance and work on the proposed improvements, in order for them to become more confident musicians, regardless of how far they do or don't progress in the competition.

"We believe it is a brilliant opportunity for those who have always dreamed of having the chance to perform on stage, for those who study music and also for students who simply have a passion for performing," Rosa said.

Sound Affects has two branches; an Ormskirk branch which is home to Sound Affects Premier, a guitar shop selling a wide ranch of high end guitars, opposite which is the main teaching hub and music studio; and an Aintree branch which also has a range of guitars and a smaller teaching hub.

The top prize for winning the 'battle of the bands' is a day spent recording at the Ormskirk studio. Other prizes will include free music lessons at the company's teaching facilities while there will be individual prizes for 'best vocalist', 'all round performer' and 'star of the show'.

Ed Cuss teaching drums at the Aintree Sound Affects store.

Participants will also be offered optional mentored sessions at a cost of £30 per hour, where the students will receive technical advice, performance techniques and encouragement.

Acts must apply by Friday, March 30 with auditions taking place on April 10, 12, and 14. Applications cost £10 per act. Visit www.soundaffectsmusic.com/battle-of-the-bands-2018-i227 to apply.

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Staff and residents at Parklands Lodge with visitors from the YMCA Nursery

Young and old unite at special care home hub

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A CARE group's hub has launched a new initiative which seeks to unite the oldest and youngest in the community.

The Athena Health Care Group, who own a number of homes across Sefton and West Lancs, launched their Community Activities Hub to unite older people's services and groups last year to promote sharing inspirational ideas with activity co-ordinators from care providers across the North West.

They also hold joint activity sessions at the Hub's care homes as well as 'meaningful' days out as part of their Ageing Well initiative.

They launched their new initiative last week, 'Care Home Awareness for the Younger Generation' at Parklands Lodge Care Home, in Southport, with youngsters from YMCA Nursery in Southport.

It aims to help the younger generation feel more at ease when visiting an older relative at a home.

Lesley Malone, events organiser for the group, said: "YMCA Nursery children aged three-four visited us to launch the initiate as part of a six-month project to work together.

"Over the next six months all of our homes will be taking photographs and quotes from residents and at the end of the period, Athena Health Care Group will create a booklet to put forward to the local education authority, which the nursery has kindly offered to help with.

"YMCA Nursery children will be coming into Parklands Lodge doing activities with the residents and staff alongside the education curriculum.

"One of our residents, former schoolteacher Marjorie Robinson, who used to be a school teacher, will also be helping with this initiative as she brings a wealth of experience from her previous occupation.

"We will record how the children have been engaging and how our residents participate with activities. We would like the younger generation to grow up knowing all about the caring environment homes as we are all living longer and this is the future for ageing well!"

Helen McGreavy from the YMCA Nursery said: "We are pleased to be working with Parklands Lodge to supporting the initiative.

"We are passionate about building positive relationships and this is a fantastic opportunity for the children to engage with different members of our local community."

Libraries set to get creative!

LANCASHIRE libraries are taking part in a national festival aimed at inspiring and encouraging everyone to have a go at being creative.

All of the county's libraries will be taking part in the UK-wide Get Creative 2018 festival from Saturday, March 17 to Sunday, March 25.

Activities and taster sessions celebrating everyday creativity include painting, knitting, embroidery, Lego creations, jewellery making, doodling and singing.

Taking part in the majority of the events will be free though some could have a small charge to cover the costs of the materials to be used.

The Get Creative Festival is delivered in partnership with cultural organisations including the BBC, Arts Council England, Crafts Council, and Voluntary Arts.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "The festival will encourage people to find out how to get creative on their doorstep and give people the chance to try something different from the various hands-on events we've got on offer.

"There's also the opportunity for people to step out of their comfort zone and try something new.

"I'm pleased that all our libraries are taking part in this. Wherever you live in the county there will be something creative on offer."

You can call in at your local library to find out more information about Get Creative, and the events and activities that are taking place.

Alternatively visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries, call 0300 123 6703 or follow Lancashire's libraries on Twitter www.twitter.com/lancspublib or visit their new Facebook page www.facebook.com/lancslibraries

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Parking change is great for town

It's so motivational to see our West Lancashire Borough Council listening to the town's entrepreneurs.

The newly agreed car park charging strategy will be a massive boost for us town centre businesses, 'two-hour time pressure' on shoppers and visitors will be a thing of the past.

Coming to town will be a better experience, encouraging fuller enjoyment of the place we all love.

Great work, and credit where it's due.

Dave Coyle,
Ormskirk Business Action Group

Council tax system should be based on percentage value of property

Now that the 2018/9 council tax charges have been released I'm sure we will see the usual letters of complaint.

The increase is entirely due to the government slashing the amount of money they give to local authorities.

With this increase in council tax local services such as local bus services will still be reduced.

This is the disgraceful policy of this government reducing resources, for example, the police trying to put the blame of reduced services on local councils.

Typical of this policy is the announcement three years ago by former Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne that rents on council houses are to be reduced by 1% per year.

The reason for this was that local authorities would receive less money but the government would pay less in housing benefits.

I live in a Band F property and my council tax will be £2,530 which is about 0.6% of the value of my residence which I consider to be a fair amount.

However the whole system of council tax ought to be changed with a tax based on the percentage of the value of a property with no upper limit.

It is an absolute disgrace the properties in the most expensive areas of London some worth over £100million only pay council tax of £1,200.

Also there should be no exemption, as at present, for student households and single occupied houses should not pay reduced tax.

JM Berry,
Aughton

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

Please note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

PICTURE of the week

Children sprinted over the snowy slopes of Beacon Country Park in a rush to get the best use out of last week's surprise wintry downfall. Picture by Martyn Snape.

People who have Parkinson's are being mistreated

In recent weeks we have heard an alarming number of stories about people with Parkinson's being misunderstood or mistreated by the staff of public-facing businesses across the UK.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition. This means that it causes problems in the brain and gets worse over time.

Parkinson's affects everyone differently, but the main symptoms are tremor (shaking), slowness of movement, and rigidity (muscle stiffness).

Other symptoms can also include depression, anxiety, hallucinations, memory problems and dementia.

Lack of public understanding can make simple things like getting the bus, paying at a checkout or even going for a coffee with friends daunting for people with Parkinson's.

To make matters worse, Parkinson's UK research shows one in every four people have had their condition confused for drunkenness, and one in ten have been laughed at in public due to their symptoms.

We also know that one in three people with Parkinson's have felt the need to cover up their symptoms, because they're not seen as socially acceptable. This is completely unacceptable. It's time to change.

Parkinson's UK has created a free and easily accessible Parkinson's in your workplace training package and, via an open letter, the charity is calling on all businesses to roll out the training and make sure their staff understand Parkinson's and can support their customers' needs.

To join the campaign and call for businesses to better understand Parkinson's, visit www.parkinsons.org.uk/UFP

Together we can raise awareness and make society more understanding of Parkinson's.

Steve Ford,
Chief executive of Parkinson's UK

Privileged to have an amazing A&E

I write in reply to Disappointed of Skelmersdale's letter about hospital A&E.

Whilst I fully appreciate that it is not ideal having to travel to Southport for treatment I am shocked that the writer wants those with young babies and children to make the longer more difficult journey instead.

I feel privileged to have such an amazing children's A&E department on our doorstep and hope that it will always continue to be there.

Name and address withheld,
By email

Local councils should look at how East Hampshire operates

Lancashire County Council will be raising its part of the council tax by 2.99% plus a further 3% for social care services, ie, 5.99% in total.

Those lucky enough to have occupational pensions, and many workers, may see an inflation-linked increase of only around 3%; many others will see no increase in their annual income.

Meanwhile await the level of increase in council tax by West Lancashire Borough Council.

They introduced a green bin charge of £30 last year which was opposed by residents and four years ago the role of chief executive was abolished, with his workload then shared by his two deputies, one of whose posts was subsequently abolished.

Ever increasing council tax bills need not be the way forward.

East Hampshire District Council have had no cuts to frontline services and no increases in council tax for seven years.

The magic formula - a hard-headed senior executive, previously at Mars, who has overseen a diversified and successful investment of council funds, cost pruning and the chief executive being hired out to neighbouring Havant Council.

I hope our senior council officials take not.

Name supplied,
Newburgh

I'm not keen on petition to park

IN reference to Mr Miller's online petition for a parking permit in Stiles car park in Ormskirk (Champion, February 21).

I'm sure the inconvenience of having to drive around the one-way system is also a hindrance to his daily life.

Why not start a petition so he can drive through the town centre to park up too!

Eddie Baker,
By email

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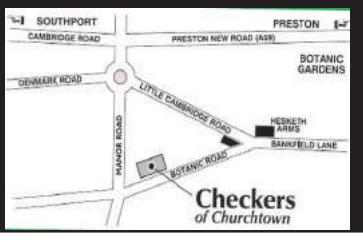

Opening Times
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Residents invited to have a say on how to run council services

RESIDENTS, community groups and businesses are being invited to give their views on West Lancashire Borough Council services and make suggestions on how the authority should make reductions in spending or increase income.

A number of residents have been sent a letter inviting them to take part in the 2018 Citizens Survey and give their opinions so they can help influence decisions that will be taken by the council. Instructions in the letter tell the recipients how they can complete the survey.

Everyone living in West Lancashire can take part in the survey, even if they have not received a letter inviting them to do so.

They can access the survey by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/cssurvey.

There is also a Stakeholder Survey 2018 at www.westlancs.gov.uk/cssurvey which community groups and businesses are encouraged to complete and make their voices heard.

Only one response can be accepted on behalf of each organisation. If any members of organisations wish to give their views as individual residents they can do so via the Citizen Survey.

Both surveys are open until March 22 2018.

Cllr Ian Moran, leader of the council, said: "We encourage as many residents, tenants, community groups, organisations and businesses as possible to take this opportunity to give their views on these important issues."

Paper copies of both surveys can be requested by contacting the customer engagement team on 01695 585216 or calling at the customer service points in Ormskirk or Skelmersdale.

Invitation to attend U3A

SKELMERSDALE has a small and thriving branch of U3A who meet in the Ecumenical Centre on Thursday at 2.15pm.

At tomorrow's meeting (Thursday, March 15) the speaker will be Norman Harris with a talk titled China – A Presentation.

U3A leaders hoped that this will be a "wonderful introduction", especially to a small group of members who will be going to the China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors exhibition in Liverpool in May.

At the next meeting on April 19, the group will hear about the problems of Plastics in the World's Oceans with Christine Gaze, of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Everyone is welcome to the meetings and there is there is an entrance fee of £1.

The meeting follows the Junk Food Café Lunch.

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
See this week's letters on page 16

Members of Sporting Challenge. Edward McCarthy far right.

Sporting charity is having a ball after cash boost reward

Report by **Kenny Parker**

SPORTING Challenge, which works with young people across West Lancashire, has been given a £2,000 cash boost.

The charity, which is based in Burscough but serves all of West Lancashire, organises fitness activities for young people and adults with learning disabilities.

It was given £2,000 towards its work from Lancashire County Council.

The charity is one of seven from the area which will share £11,000 worth of grants.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, said: "These groups play a crucial role in local communities and I'm pleased to provide these grants, which help them continue their vital role supporting young people across the county.""

Edward McCarthy, Sporting Challenge activities co-ordinator, said: "On behalf of Sporting Challenge I wish to thank Lancashire County Council for their most generous Young People's Grant.

"Our numbers are growing and the majority of new members are aged 16-22.

"This is a key area we need to support. This number is set to grow over the years to come.

"We are working with Lancashire County Council to provide support/sessions for adults transition aged (16-22) this can be a difficult time for the adults and their families.

"There is a lot of change and they can easily move from school or college and not keep their friendships.

"Our group can help people make new friends, grow in confidence and keep fit and healthy. If you are a parent who is interested please get in touch!"

You can contact Edward on 07971 299606 for more information.

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Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner joined Lancashire Constabulary to celebrate the achievements of several apprentices.

Police commissioner awards apprentices

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, has met with Lancashire Constabulary apprentices to praise them on the work they do across the organisation.

The event, held at police headquarters in Hutton to mark National Apprenticeship Week, celebrated apprentices who work across the constabulary in a range of police staff roles, as they received their certificates after completing business administration qualifications at various levels.

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner said: "I'm really pleased that this event provided an opportunity to meet a number of apprentices who are making a real difference across the force here in Lancashire, hearing about the work they do in their day to day roles and how they have benefited from the experience.

"My office always looks to offer young people the opportunity of apprenticeships wherever possible, with many then going on to further their careers both in and out of policing.

"My Social Value policy outlines our approach to spending money to ensure as much value remains in the Lancashire area, which also encourages the creation of apprenticeships as I know the benefit this can bring across our communities.

"Apprenticeships provide a great opportunity for those who want to take an alternative path into policing, working across the Constabulary and make an impact in the roles that they are in, whilst developing key skills which will benefit their long term careers."

Victor Robinson, head of people services at Lancashire Police said: "We are extremely proud of our apprentices and what they have achieved. Not only have they developed their skills and abilities as apprentices but they have also made a valuable contribution within Lancashire Police."

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MP offers support for terminally ill employees

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper has made a commitment to support and protect employees who become terminally ill by signing the TUC 'Dying to Work' charter.

Since its launch in April 2016, The TUC's 'Dying to Work' Voluntary Charter now protects over half a million employees with companies such as Legal and General, Santander, Co-Op, Rolls Royce, Royal Mail and E.On signing up along with a number of public sector bodies including NHS trusts, police constabularies and many local authorities.

The Dying to Work campaign was set up following the case of Jacci Woodcook, a 58-year-old sales manager from Derbyshire, who was forced out of her job after being diagnosed with terminal breast cancer.

The campaign is calling for a change in the law to prevent the same thing happening to other working people.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper said: "It is shocking to think that if people with terminal illnesses are dismissed or forced out of their jobs that their loved ones will lose the death in service payments that the employee has planned for and earned through a lifetime of hard work. That is why I am proud to have signed the TUC's 'Dying to Work' charter to protect employees and I will be encouraging businesses in my constituency to follow suit and sign up to the TUC's voluntary charter.

"In addition, I hope something will soon be done to ensure that every individual with terminal illness will receive the protection and support they deserve."

The campaign has also been endorsed by a number of trade unions and charities, including The National Council for Palliative Care, Hospice UK, Breast Cancer Care and Second Hope.

TUC Deputy General Secretary Paul Nowak said:"Serious illness is tough enough without having to put up with extra hassle at work. Everyone can surely agree that terminally-ill workers deserve protection.

"That's why unions, MPs, employers and charities are coming together to ensure that workers get the support and protections they need when times are toughest."

MP Rosie Cooper with Lee Baron from the TUC and Jacci Woodcook from the 'Dying to Work' campaign

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Dog trainers want to set tails wagging at show!

Caroline and Adrian of K92000.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A HUSBAND and wife dog training team were all ears and quick to respond when called upon to provide headline entertainment at an upcoming dog festival at Liverpool's Exhibition Centre.

Caroline and Adrian Slater, from Ormskirk, have been asked to put on a show at Dog Mania, organised by Merseyside Dogs Home, which is the only indoor show in the UK where owners can take their dogs along to join in the shows and activities.

Taking place over the March 31 and April 1 weekend, the event will feature competitions, a market, health checks, expert pet advice, photo-shoots, grooming and "a doggie chill-out zone".

There will also be shows and on the Saturday Caroline and Adrian will display their two dog teams K92000 and Kipperridge Gundogs.

K92000 Dog Training and Agility Centre, based at Asmall Livery Stables on Asmall Lane, Ormskirk, has been established for 20 years and offers puppy and advanced classes to customers from Merseyside and West Lancashire area. While Kipperidge Gundogs provides training for owners who want to enter their dogs into competitions, work in the field or just to make the most of their natural ability.

Being asked to provide a display at Dog Mania is just one of many high profile events that they have been called upon to help with.

Their dog display teams regularly perform at Crufts in Birmingham and last year they put on a show before the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall at the Sandringham Flower Show.

Caroline said: "Sandringham was nerve racking. That had to be right as we had a lot of people watching, we had a lot of big names there. Charles and Camilla came and they opened the show. They came through the main gates in a horse and carriage and we were on just ten minutes afterwards.

"It went well though and we had some very positive feedback."

K92000 has performed at the Southport Flower show and also at a Churches Together Park Praise event held two years ago in Ormskirk.

This year, Caroline says, Kipperidge Gundogs will perform at the Southport Flower Show and K92000 has also been asked to provide a display for another Park Praise event in Ormskirk.

About Dog Mania, she said: "It is a privilege to be asked to take part, especially with it being a local event. Just as it was a privilege to be asked to do Sandringham.

"We expect to put on a really good entertaining show."

Caroline at 2016's Ormskirk Churches Together Park Praise event.

Council's bright idea could save millions

A SCHEME to replace 38,000 streetlights with LEDs, saving the county nearly £2million per year, has been approved by Lancashire County Council's cabinet.

The £9.2m project, which will begin in April 2018 and be completed in November 2020, is the final part of plans to replace all of the county's older, less efficient streetlights with cutting edge, energy saving LEDs.

It follows a three-year scheme which has already seen 87,000 traditional streetlights replaced with LEDs.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "By replacing these streetlights with LEDs, we'll save £1.8m every year once the project is complete.

"We've already replaced 87,000 of the older style street lights and this scheme will see us replace a further 38,000 streetlights with more efficient LED lights.

"All of the county's streets will be lit by LEDs by November 2020.

"This scheme is a key part of our plans to improve energy efficiency, lower energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.""

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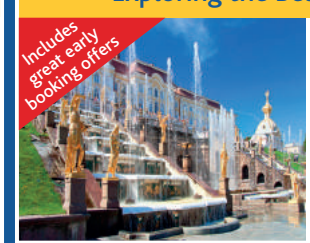

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Medal glory for martial arts team

MEMBERS of the Ormskirk Shotokan Karate Club produced medal-winning performances in the England Shotokan Championships in Windsor.

Black belts, Mark Warren and Michael Clayton-Brown, competed against rivals from across the country in both kata (a composition of stylized karate moves carried out to a set routine) and solo kumite (sparring), before joining clubmate and fellow black belt, Andrew Durney, in the team kumite.

Although eliminated from the kata in the early stages, the solo and team kumite saw the local trio shine with Mark, taking silver in the solo event, before helping his colleagues to claim a battling bronze in the team event.

The Ormskirk Shotokan Karate Club team with their bronze award.

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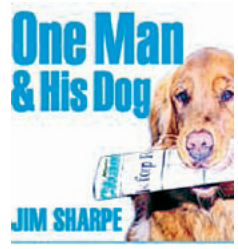
Popeye was right - you are what you are and that's all that you are

I AM a great supporter of Popeye the Sailor Man - and his famous line - "I am what I am and that's all that I am."

He knew alright - he was Popeye the Sailor Man.

These days of course he would be forgiven if he wasn't quite so sure - though the prospect of Popeye wearing a skirt is not one I'd like to contemplate.

So I reckon my old cartoon hero would have been as an irritated as I was when I heard a discussion on a TV political programme about whether or not youngsters at school should, as part of their school uniform, be allowed to choose whether to wear trousers or skirts, irrespective of which sex they nominally belonged to.



Of course, a very earnest young woman started spouting about 'tolerance' and 'diversity.'

Now please do not misunderstand me. I am not in any way trying to denigrate those who need to change their gender.

But I don't think this argument does their cause any good at all. The opposite in fact.

To be clear, I think this was a rather trivial discussion being blown up by those who perpetrated it about a 'proble" that does not exist.

Apparently the Liberal Democrats, tired of such things as Brexit or the economy, are now calling on all schools to adopt a 'gender neutral' policy for school uniforms so as not to upset those of a transgender disposition.

Now I know the Lib Dems have, rightly, adopted very strong policies designed to stop bullying at school. This is a truly laudable ambition, though one I fear could never totally be achieved.

And to suggest that if Tommy, who up 'till now wore trousers just like all of his contemporaries, should one day turn up at school wearing a skirt for a change without being a bullying target, then I am afraid they have rather over-estimated the tolerance of certain members of our society.

Of course, I don't suppose this would be what they mean at all. I think they mean that all pupils, boys and girls, should wear trousers.

I have nothing against that in itself. Girls and women have worn trousers regularly for many years.

My mum did for just about everything apart from formal occasions when the dress or skirt seemed to her more appropriate.

But about 'diversity.' Suppose a girl chooses to wear a skirt with a blouse and uniform school blazer? Is she to be told that trousers are compulsory? And if so, isn't that in itself intolerant?

Why on earth should anybody, and perhaps political parties in particular, feel it necessary to poke their noses into something which can surely be best handled by the school itself?

And where would it stop? At the bottom perhaps. Should all pupils of either gender or none, wear the same sort of shoes? Or perhaps a nice pair of trainers which are, I think, more or less unisex?

One of the reasons for wearing a school uniform in the first place is to place each pupil on a level footing - it certainly isn't to provide instant amusement for the local yobos.

When I was at secondary school, we boys all wore grey shirts and short trousers until, I think, we were in the fifth form when we changed like butterflies into long trousers and white shirts (with at first detachable collars!)

And until then we were told, on pain of a visit to the headmaster, that school caps should be worn at all times outside school - including on the school buses each morning and evening.

Naturally this was roundly ignored - though one's cap was always kept crushed into a pocket somewhere in case anybody noticed.

Well, I mean, how could one keep one's dignity if you had just sneaked out for a crafty cigarette in the park - but wearing a cap?

Not that the school had much tolerance to our diversity - which was of course precisely just what their attitude should have been.

It was called 'School Rules' and frankly I think we would have felt a loss if a more 'tolerant' attitude had prevailed.

Perhaps Popeye was indeed right.

You are what you are and that's all that you are - but sometimes you need to be mature enough simply to fit in to a given situation - whatever you are.

Pupils with SPAR, Tom Bosworth and Lancashire Sports Games organisers.

Children help kick off school games

Report by **Kenny Parker**

PUPILS from across West Lancashire have celebrated the launch of this year's SPAR Lancashire School Games at a fun-filled event attended by Team GB race walker and world record holder Tom Bosworth.

Pupils from Westhead Lathom St James CE Primary School gathered at Preston-based James Hall & Company Ltd in preparation for months of sporting competitions alongside the school games mascot, the Lancashire Lion.

Organised by Lancashire Sport Partnership, the SPAR Lancashire School Games comprises a series of inclusive sporting events that provides competitive opportunities for all school children across the county.

More than 3,500 children from schools across Lancashire's 15 districts will now battle it out for a place at the county finals in 16 sports including gymnastics, football, athletics, mixed cricket and touch rugby.

To mark the programme launch, Tom Bosworth gave the children an inspiring speech about his career, sharing an insight into how sport has changed his life.

Tom said: "Any campaign or organisation that gets children interested in sport is priceless. I was introduced to professional sport by being influenced to get involved with athletics at a young age and I have never looked back. It has completely altered the course of my life, so if the school games programme influences just one child to take up sport, it will all be worth it."

Chris Hart, school games organiser for West Lancashire, said: "It is a pleasure to see so many children from West Lancashire involved with the annual SPAR Lancashire School Games.

"Thanks to James Hall & Company Ltd, the Lancashire School Games just keep evolving. This year an additional 1,500 children will participate, with more sports such as quick sticks and quad kids added to the timetable too."

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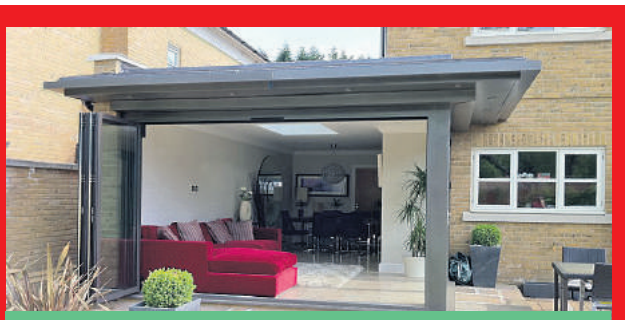

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"They'll be every Thursday afternoon 2 to 4pm at the Four Lane Ends Mission - sessions are free, but folk are most welcome to donate to Timesavers."

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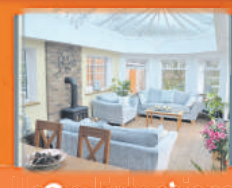
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WIN! tickets to see Disney on Ice

The Champion has five family passes to give away to readers

A scene from Disney On Ice

DISNEY on Ice is returning to Liverpool for another fun-filled family spectacular.

And the Champion has five family tickets for the show to give away.

Enter the dazzling world of Disney magic, live on ice! Rev up for non-stop fun with four of your favourite Disney stories as Disney On Ice presents 'Worlds of Enchantment' which is coming to the Liverpool Arena from April 11-15

Thrill to high-speed stunts as Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's Cars race across the ice like you've never seen before! Dive into adventure with Ariel in The Little Mermaid's enchanted undersea kingdom.

The toys are back in town when Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the Toy Story gang escape from the rambunctious tots of Sunnyside Daycare in their most daring adventure ever! Plus, enter the wintry world of Arendelle with sisters Anna and Elsa and pals Olaf and Kristoff from Disney's Frozen, as they learn that true love comes from within. What's more, don't miss the chance to warm up at the Fit to Dance pre-show party!

From wheels to waves, icy wonderlands to infinity and beyond, your family's favourite Disney moments come to life at Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Enchantment.

To be in with a chance to win one of five family tickets to the opening show on Wednesday, April 11 answer the following question:-

Q. What year was Walt Disney born?

Answers on a postcard please to: Disney Competition, Champion Newspapers, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 OQA. Please incluse your full address and a daytime contact number. Closing date for entries is Friday, March 23 at 12 noon. Usual Champion competition rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

For more information on the show go to www.disneyonice.co.uk

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Sir Ken Dodd

Farewell to the 'tattifilarious' marathon man of comedy

Report by **Henry James**

TRIBUTES have been paid to the veteran comedian Sir Ken Dodd - the man who brought so much happiness to the people of West Lancashire.

Doddy died on Sunday, aged 90, at the Knotty Ash home where he was born and lived all his life.

The great entertainer's career spanned more than six decades, and he was famous for his tickling sticks, his "tattifilarious" comedy, the Diddymen from Knotty Ash and for hit records all over the world.

He died only a matter of days after returning to his Liverpool home from hospital, where he had been treated during the last six weeks for a chest infection.

Just last Friday he married Anne Jones, who had been his partner of 40 years.

His publicist Robert Holmes announced the comedian's death and said: "He passed away in the home that he was born in over 90 years ago. He's never lived anywhere else.

"With Ken gone, the lights have been turned out in the world of variety. He was a comedy legend and a genius."

Dodd made his professional debut in Nottingham in 1954.

In the following decades he became a regular on the stage, TV and radio. His shows were famous for lasting hours, although he always maintained that "he was giving value for money."

In 1989 he was charged with tax evasion, but was acquitted by a Liverpool jury.

Closer to home, many West Lancs residents will recall his visits to Southport - not just sell-out shows but his appearances in the town to switch on the Christmas lights.

He gave his last performance at Southport theatre at the end of last year.

A spokesman for Sefton Council said: "Sir Ken Dodd was one of Britain's funniest comedians and had strong links with Sefton.

"He regularly performed at Southport Theatre and Convention Centre entertaining thousands of people with his legendary shows.

"In 2008 he officially unveiled a £4million makeover of Southport's famous shopping boulevard, Lord Street, and was in the resort in 2015 as he paid tributes to his friend, Phil King - Sefton Council's former Chief Tourism and Attractions officer.

"He was a one-off comedian and will be sadly missed."

Lisa Chu, general manager at Southport theatre added: "The team at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre are truly saddened by the news of Sir Ken's death over the weekend.

"He and his wife Anne were great friends of the venue with relationships built over many years when he performed at least twice a year in the Southport Theatre.

"We are proud to have been one of Ken's favourite venues and we feel privileged to have known both him and Anne personally over the years.

"Not only was Sir Ken a true comedy genius who literally made hundreds of thousands of guests laugh, sing and leave every show with a spring in their step, he was genuinely a lovely caring person, a true professional and a great deal of fun to be around.

"He was loved by everyone who had the pleasure to meet him and his dedicated wife Anne who was always at his side.

"The world has lost a true legend but his legacy will go on. It's impossible for anybody who has touched as many people's hearts as Ken Dodd, for him ever to be forgotten.

"Our thoughts, prayers and love go out to Anne and her family who we know will take comfort in the fact that Ken lived a full life and has had such a great positive impact on so many people over the years."

Sir Ken Dodd at Southport theatre

See our Picture of the Week on page 16

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Professor Stephen Pratt

Professor to give his inaugural public lecture

COMPOSER, conductor and broadcaster Professor Stephen Pratt will give his inaugural public lecture at Edge Hill University tomorrow (Thursday, March 15.)

Taking place in the University's historic Hale Hall, Stephen will discuss his compositional techniques, focussing on his most recent piece, Symphonies of Time and Tide for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (RLPO). Stephen's talk will be followed by a cello and piano recital from international soloist and RLPO Principal Cello Jonathan Aasgaard and pianist and director of Pixels Ensemble Ian Buckle.

The recital will set works by Stephen within a varied programme of music for cello and piano, including the Sonata by Debussy.

Stephen's longstanding association with the RLPO and its musicians has seen him premier over a dozen works for the full orchestra and its ensembles.

Stephen has written for The Guardian and Classical Music magazine and has presented shows on BBC Radio 3 and 4.

Stephen holds Emeritus Professorships in Music from Gresham College, London, and Liverpool Hope University. He became Professor of Music at Edge Hill University in the spring of 2016.

This event will take place at Hale Hall in Edge Hill University's Main Building from 5.30pm.

It is free to attend but places should be booked in advance.

Stephen teaches on programmes in Edge Hill's Performing Arts department.

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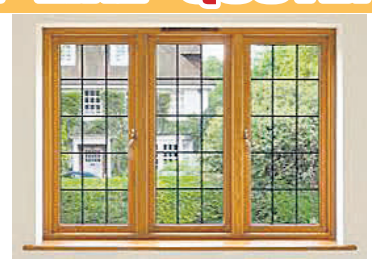

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Lifeguards needed for assault course

A FLOATING assault course which will soon arrive on Liverpool's waterfront needs full-time and part-time lifeguards to help keep people safe.

Adventure Dock, which is a 92-metre floating assault course, will operate throughout the summer months from May to October at Duke's Dock.

Potential new recruits will need excellent team working skills, as well as a pool or beach lifeguard qualification (NPLQ/NBLQ) and experience in previous customer facing roles.

As well as this, desired skills and qualifications include first aid training, a DBS certificate and a safeguarding certificate.

Tim Woodhead, creator of The Adventure Dock, said: "We are looking to recruit around 20 fun-loving but enthusiastic people to work as aqua guides this summer.

"We are currently a small but dedicated team and we want to make some life-long memories for both the customers and the staff. We are already busy with enquiries so we would love to hear from anyone who is up for the challenge to get the summer started now."

Part of the floating assault course

"As well as lifeguard work, Adventure Dock are also creating opportunities for long-term, full-time employment within the company, with admin and planning jobs also available throughout the off-season."

To register your interest, send your CV to hello@adventuredock.co.uk, with interviews taking place during the week commencing March 12.

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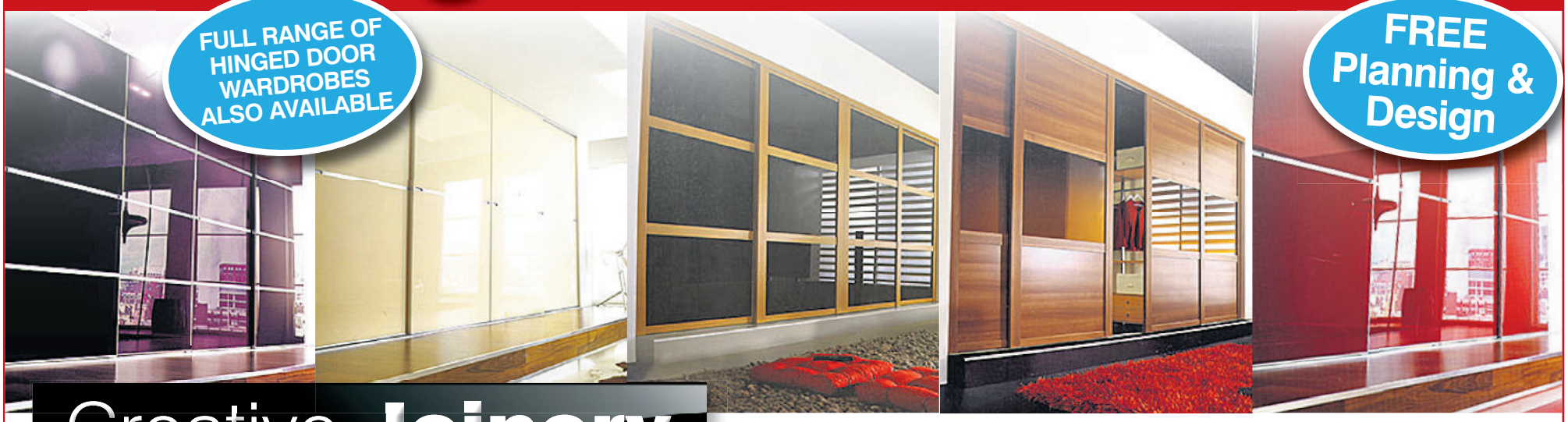

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Participants on the StarTrek fundraising event to raise funds for the Queenscourt Hospice

Early bird discount for Star Trekk participants

EARLY birds can catch a discounted rate to take part in the annual Star Trekk fundraising event in Southport!

Participants who sign up for the annual 8.5mile hike to raise funds for the Queenscourt Hospice before this Friday (March 16) can enjoy the lower rate of £12 (usually £15).

The walk is once again supported by Southport Pleasureland, which will be the start and finish of the event which takes place on Friday, May 18.

This year's Star Trekk run - an event which attracts participants from all over Sefton and West Lancashire - will set off on an exciting new route which travels around an 8.5 mile hike around Southport raising money for Queenscourt Hospice.

Now in its twelfth year, Star Trekk is the flagship event in Queenscourt's fundraising calendar and has raised more than £700,000 to date.

A spokesperson said: "This starlit stroll around the streets of Southport really is a fabulous night with a fantastic atmosphere and this year it's going to be better than ever!

"Everyone is welcome - men, women and children; some people use the walk as an opportunity to remember their loved ones with the route taking you past Queenscourt Hospice where the lights of love will be shinning out. Other people get involved to simply have a memorable night out and do their bit for charity."

● To sign up, visit queenscourt.org.uk/startrekk or to find out more, call 01704 517420 or email fundraising@queenscourt.org.uk

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World Glaucoma Week
March 11–17, 2018

The focus for World Glaucoma Week 2018, from The International Glaucoma Association (IGA), is on the prevalence of glaucoma in the UK and Globally with an emphasis on the importance of regular eye health checks to detect glaucoma in the early stages.

The IGA recommends that everyone over the age of 40 should see an optician (optometrist) or medical specialist for an eye test every two years. This is particularly important for those who have a close relatives with glaucoma (brother, sister, parent or child), of African Caribbean and Asian origins, diabetic, have low blood pressure, or are short sighted.

Glaucoma is usually painless and does not cause symptoms until it is quite advanced. It is therefore important to have regular eye health checks which test for glaucoma at an early stage.

These tests are quick and painless and involve:

1. Looking at the appearance of the main nerve in the eye, called the optic nerve (ophthalmoscopy)
2. Measuring the pressure in the eye (tonometry)
3. Checking the field of vision (perimetry)

Consultant ophthalmic surgeon and glaucoma specialist, for iSIGHT Clinic, Southport and Aintree University Hospital, Mr Vincent Dubois, offers some insight on detecting and living with Glaucoma.

Unfortunately, there are no symptoms from early glaucoma. By the time a patient has symptoms, it is usually too late. This is why glaucoma has been described as the 'silent thief of sight'. It affects 600,000 in the UK and it is estimated that 76 million people globally will have glaucoma by 2020, making it the leading cause of irreversible blindness globally.

The safest way to protect ourselves from glaucoma is to regularly attend a local high-street Optician. Apart from prescribing and issuing glasses, an Optometrist can carry out tests to see whether a patient has Glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a disease of the optic nerve, the nerve that captures light and sends that light to the brain where an image is generated, giving you 'sight'. A diseased optic nerve does not see well and in some cases, patients can lose their sight from this condition. Those who are most at risk of Glaucoma are generally, the elderly, patients with Indian, Asian or African origins, and those who have a family member who is already affected by the disease.

The good news is glaucoma can be treated, we use eye drops, lasers and surgery to stop or slow down the condition. However, we cannot restore any sight already lost, hence the importance of early detection whilst people are free of any symptoms. 9 out of 10 patients do not need surgery.

A lot of patients ask, will it stop me from driving? The answer is, only if they have it in both eyes AND it is severe. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they meet DVLA requirements. A person must inform the DVLA if they have glaucoma in both eyes. In this instance the DVLA will arrange for them to have some further testing done, which will determine their eligibility to hold a UK Driving License. Class 2 license holders have more stringent requirements.

Remember, with early detection, from regular eye tests, and appropriate treatment very few patients have sight problems from Glaucoma. This is a condition that patients tend to live with, not suffer from. However, there are local support groups in place to help inform and educate people about the condition.

For more visit
www.glaucoma-association.com

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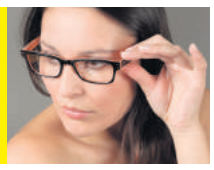

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Specsavers' teams up-skill awareness in glaucoma - the silent thief of sight

In the build up to World Glaucoma Week this week, Specsavers teams have been up-skilling to better support patients with the condition.

Often symptomless in its early stages, glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible sight loss. It is thought to affect 700,000 people in the UK today, but as many as 50% of cases are undiagnosed*.

In conjunction with the International Glaucoma Association, Specsavers has developed training for its retail teams to assist sufferers with their treatment. Specifically, they will be advising on how to effectively administer eye drops, which are crucial for managing the condition.

This new training complements the skills held by Specsavers' optometrists, who have collectively completed almost 5,000 postgraduate glaucoma accreditations since 2017, through a variety of accrediting bodies including Cardiff University and the College of Optometrists.

Alan Murphy was just 37 when a trip to Specsavers found the early stages of glaucoma. Thanks to early detection, his condition is now managed by using eye drops daily.

Alan, now an advocate of regular eye tests and good eye health, believes early diagnosis and careful management has saved his sight. He says: 'I would strongly urge people to go for regular eye tests, and to make the most of the advice and support provided by their local optician.'

Karen Osborn, chief executive of IGA, says: 'The majority of people who are diagnosed early with glaucoma will retain useful sight for life. Most will be treated with medical eye drops. Unfortunately we know from calls to our helpline that many people aren't told about how to put the drop in the eye correctly, or aren't advised about the aids that are available to help them. We are delighted to work with Specsavers on this often over-looked aspect of glaucoma management.'

*RNIB State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017

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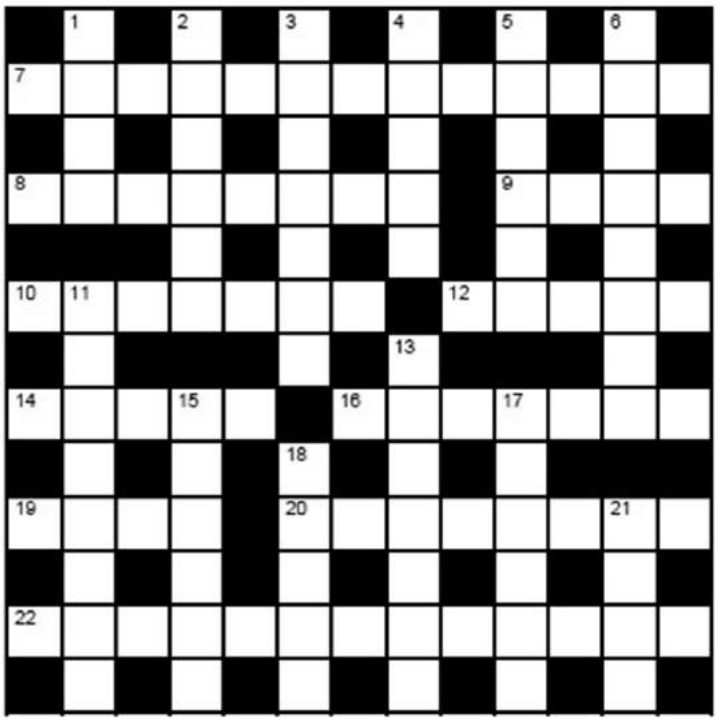

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Curate. 8. Equity. 9. Mass. 10. Tailspin. 11. Stiffly. 13. Balmy. 15. Bossy. 17. Javelin. 20. Scullery. 21. Late. 22. Trance. 23 Splice.

Down: 1. Kuwait. 2. Lass. 3. Fertile. 4. Devil. 5. Sunshade. 6. Atrium. 12. Fast lane. 14. Calypso. 16. Oscars. 18. Intact. 19. Refer. 21. Lilo.

ACROSS

7. Dated term for a cinematographic film (6,7)
8. Musical instrument of the lute family with pairs of strings plucked with a plectrum (8)
9. Work-shy, lazy (4)
10. Let loose (7)
12. Employment, consumption (5)
14. Dodge, avoid (5)
16. Be aware of beforehand, envisage (7)
19. Highly spiced stew of meats and vegetables originating from Spain and Portugal (4)
20. Common piece of laboratory glassware (4,4)
22. Archipelago off the South West tip of Cornwall (5, 2, 6)

DOWN

1. Duty schedule (4)
2. In golf a score of one stroke under par at a hole (6)
3. Never appearing any older (7)
4. Evil person or demon (5)
5. Moral code (6)
6. Introductory section of a literary, dramatic, or musical work (8)
11. Fiction writer (8)
13. Be composed or made up of (7)
15. Ill-fated (6)
17. Involve (something) as a necessary or inevitable part or consequence (6)
18. The characteristic spirit of a culture, era, or community (5)
21. Daring, intrepid (4)

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Family of grocers bow out in style thanks to support

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Graham family (Philip, Stephen, Janet and Peter Beament) with Deputy Mayor Noel Delaney.

A POPULAR family of grocers have expressed their thanks for the overwhelming response they have recieved to news of their retirement.

The Graham family recently called time on their business on Liverpool Road North, Burscough, after 44 years of service to the community.

The business was founded by John Graham and his wife Elsie in 1974.

Though John died in 1985 and his wife Elise passed away in 2008, the business remained a family concern with Philip, 59, John, 66, (who stopped working there in the 1990s), Stephen, 62, and sister Janet, 68, and her husband Peter Beament, 68, taking over the running of it.

After announcing their retirement on Facebook, there was an outpouring of public affection and well wishes.

The family, who all live in Lathom, say they have also been inundated with cards, flowers and visits at the shop.

Even Deputy Mayor Councillor Noel Delaney took time out of his schedule to pay his respects, saying: "Grahams' has been so representative of the strong community that exists in Burscough. You mention Grahams', and Burscough comes to mind."

Contacting the Champion to let people know how grateful the Grahams are for all the cards, gifts and well wishes, Janet said: "We would like to thank all our customers and friends of the last 44 years.

"We have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown to us with all the flowers, and the amount of cards we have received was out of this world.

"We hope that we will see people out and about in the village."

Janet said that they closed the shop door for the final time after clearing it out on Monday, March 5.

In the week prior to closing she said they were very busy with customers wanting to buy their last Grahams' sandwich or cake.

The family don't know what kind of business will occupy the shop now, but Janet says she will still have plenty to do.

"I've got four men to look after so I think I will be busy!" she said, "Them and three grandchildren."

Members of McDonald Dance Academy with the presentation cheque from the National Lottery Fund.

Delighted dancers have a spring in their step!

MCDONALD Dance Academy have been given a spring in their step after receiving a cheque for £10,000 from the National Lottery Fund.

Maureen Park, owner of the dance club in Burscough, said the money will be used towards the renovation of a studio, new windows, toilets and music equipment. The Liverpool Road academy teaches a variety of styles, including ballroom, Latin American, classical and modern for both children and adults.

"We are very grateful to have received this money and looking forward to the new improvements," Maureen said.

Share memories of the RAF with the Champion

THE Royal Air Force will celebrate its centenary on April 1.

The World's First Independent Air Force was formed one hundred years ago when King George V authorised the creation of a new branch of the British military.

There are many events and celebrations planned to mark the 'RAF100' milestone and here at the Champion we would like to add our own special tribute.

We are appealing for any local stories and photographs, focusing on local people who have served in the RAF, both present day and during the past 100 years.

Have you served in the Royal Air Force?

Do you have any stories from your time there?

Do you have any family members who served and have stories?

Locally, RAF Woodvale, between Southport and Formby, has its own history to tell.

RAF Woodvale was opened in 1941 as a night fighter station for the defence of Liverpool and the docks after the city blitz in May.

The station closed in 1945 after a brief period of use by the Royal Navy.

In 1946 Spitfires of 611 Squadron reopened the airfield and the squadron stayed there until it was stood down in 1957. Since 1971, the Station's role has been largely training, with 611 reforming there in 2013.

Royal Air Force Woodvale is currently home to flying units providing flying training to future University Air Squadron students and giving air experience flights to Air Cadet Organisations within the North West.

Articles can be submitted to the Champion's editorial department either by calling us direct on 01704 392 404 or by emailing d.thompson@champnews.com

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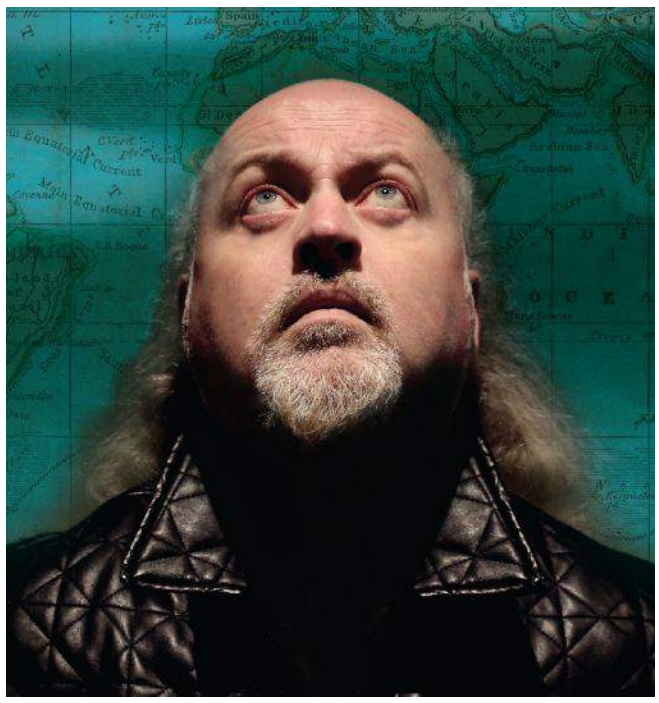
Bill Bailey stopping off in resort with his tour

Interview by **Henry James**



Bill Bailey

COMEDIAN Bill Bailey is taking his Larks In Transit tour the length and breadth of the UK throughout Spring and he is coming to the Southport Theatre for two gigs on April 27 and 28.

He knows Southport well as his wife, Kristin, grew up in the town, and the last time he performed here he remembers having a "family reunion."

Bill, 53, said: "I performed in Southport a few years ago and it was a fantastic night with much banter and nonsense. The gig was really good fun. My wife's family came to watch and it was a family reunion."

The performer can be described as a comedian, musician, singer and radio and TV presenter and he will be touring until June. "During the show I tell tales from my travels around the world," Bill commented.

"There is music, which is a common element of my show and I play a number of different instruments that I have picked up. There is some politics as well. The night can be described as a pot pourri.

"The tour has gone well so far and we have managed to hit the ground running. It has been great fun already.

"While touring sometimes there may be a different atmosphere in the audience and it can be for many different reasons. It may be because of the venue and what people are used to, and what they are expecting. It may also be the mood that people are in.

"In some cases the show you are in can be in a theatre and people expect you to do it and they sit back. At other times, the audience can wade in and shout out and you then realise that the audience are game for anything, and you can take the show off the road."

Bill, who has become a regular on our screens and appeared on Never Mind The Buzzcocks, QI and Have I Got News for You, is also a musician, and music has now become an important part of his shows. He added: "Since my early days of performing stand up music has become an integral part of my shows.

"I try and reflect all the styles of music I like, such as folk, rock, metal, and electronic. The audience will also be able to hear bird calls, and all the sounds we experience in our daily lives."

Bill is a supporter of the Labour party, but was critical of them at the time of the 2015 election campaign, and he talks about politics and current affairs during his touring shows. He added: "Whenever I travel around the world all that people talk about is Brexit.

"People are fascinated by Brexit. This is a strange period in our history where we have upended all the norms of Britain, such as a stable democracy and thrown it out for a new era. We are now in the unknown.

"I love Britain, I love the climate and the weather, but the British are definitely different."

Folk guitarist, singer and War Horse Songman Bob Fox with Lorraine Howarth and Derek Gifford before last Saturday's sell-out performance at Parbold Village Hall.

Show's Songman performs to capacity audience

Report by **Henry James**

THE folk singer and guitarist Bob Fox who continues to star as Songman in the National Theatre's production of War Horse performed to a sold-out audience in the Auditorium at Parbold's Village Hall on Saturday, March 10.

After the concert he complimented the auditorium on its "great acoustic, atmosphere and the lovely, friendly audience."

Bob's singing is said to evoke the world of the miners and the songs of the northeast. He has been involved in War Horse since 2009 and told the Champion: " War Horse is a fantastic, brilliant story written by Michael Morpurgo. A great story of humanity. A boy's quest to find his horse. It's about friendship. About the human condition and that really the German and British soldiers didn't want to kill each other. They were just there circumstantially. It's a great story. It's got some great songs by John Tams who wrote them or adapted them from existing folk songs. They are rooted in traditional English music.

"The reason John Tams wanted me was that I have spent the last 40 years as a folk singer, primarily singing songs that tell stories. This is what Songman in the show has to do. He not only tells the story but sometimes, in just a couple of lines, conveys the meaning of what's going on. In the show Songman is 'invisible' to everyone in the story, like a Greek Chorus. He appears at important moments to link scenes, or at what we call 'miracle moments' in the play where the 'impossible' happens or Songman makes it happen with his song. There are moments when the whole cast joins in the songs which produces the power of the community to make these 'impossible' things happen."

The audience at the concert were able to enjoy songs from War Horse and others from his folk song collection.

The King lives on in new stage musical at city theatre

THIS is Elvis – Burbank and Vegas will be at the Liverpool Empire from April 23-28.

Steve Michaels, who lives in North America will star as The King in the show. He has been described as having an "incredible likeness" to Elvis, from his voice, hair, side burns, piercing eyes and his mannerisms.

This Is Elvis – Burbank and Vegas celebrates 83 years since Elvis' birth and 50 years since his televised 'Special' aired on NBC Television, which later came to be known as his '68 Comeback Special. The musical follows the true story of this very pivotal period in Elvis' life and career, charting his journey back to stardom and his return to success as a stage performer.

Steve Michaels' performances of the King have garnered him worldwide attention.

Steve has played alongside some of Elvis Presley's iconic band mates including the legendary drummer DJ Fontana and bassist Jerry Scheff. In addition, he has shared the stage with The Jordanaires and the soulful voices of the Sweet Inspirations. Steve's styling and ability to capture an authentic portrayal of Elvis Presley has endeared him to audiences everywhere across Canada, United States, India, Thailand, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Philippines and Australia.

It's 1968 - the major musical event of the year was the first live TV special for Elvis Presley in what would come to be known as 'The '68 Comeback Special'.

Drawing phenomenal ratings – almost half of the viewing audience - this event re-establishes Elvis as the major entertainment star of the decade, and 12 months later Elvis stars at the International Hotel in Vegas, performing live for the first time in seven years, and securing his place in history as the King of Rock 'n' Roll!

This Is Elvis recreates all the drama leading up to the comeback as well as staging the monumental concert. It then proceeds with The King to his Vegas debut. Featuring Elvis's greatest hits including…Trouble, Heartbreak Hotel, Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, Love Me Tender, All Shook Up, Jailhouse Rock, One Night, It's Now or Never, Are you Lonesome Tonight?, Can't Help Falling in Love, In The Ghetto, Suspicious Minds, American Trilogy, Just Can't Help Believing and many more…

This production celebrates 50 years since the TV phenomenon and is testament that his songs live on and the King still rules.

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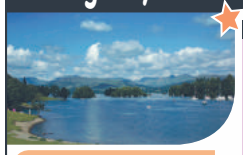

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PC WORKSTATION silver/grey metal with glass top and glass keyboard shelf. On castors, additional removable tower platform to side. Size 30in high and 20in deep. Excellent condition £25 07876701547

DIY

LANDROVER JACK Landrover jack in good condition with box. £10 01704 573226

ROUTER PROLINE 240v 1200w with 50 router bits used once like new £40.00 southport 07843558159

DIAMOND CUT 12in grinder blade hardly used great condition SWAP for 10in one or sell for £10 no offers bargain 07743101819

BATTERY CHARGER DeWalt 14volt model 9118 as new £15 Good for spares. Netherton area 07934115962

DEWALT BATTERY 12 volt model de 9074 as new £12 good for spares. Netherton area 07934 115962

SCAFFOLDING 4X4 with boards 12ft high v.g.c £80. 2 Doors for reliant scimitar, used £20 each 07749 113061

WANTED Second hand kitchen units wanted for garage, I can remove and take away, any design as long as solid 01695 558875

WANTED Small metal lathe, working or not, mains voltage, call after 4pm please 0151 5272392

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DIY

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GARDENING

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CHISEL Set of 4 wooden handled chisel. In good condition. £10 07897228418

HACK SAWS 16 inch hack saws in very good condition £5 each 07897228418

HACK SAWS 18 inch very sturdy hack saw £8 each 07897228418

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PLANTPAK PLANTPOTS New 7.5 litre, 26cm black plastic plantpots. 20 for £10 or 40 for £15. Sturdy pots large size 01257 254246

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HOBBIES

WILJON STAMP Album containing good collection of world stamps £10 ono 07544 286168

HOBBIES

WALKING POLE New Black's walking pole. Adjustable height. £5 07814640332

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TV DVD 12 volt and mains, 16" for caravan/boat etc £50 01704 808614

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76 NOTE Tyros 5, keyboard, five extension packs £1750 ono 01704 535361

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NEW DARTBOARD and Darts quality dartboard as used on tele bargain £15 01515319425/07773242918

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RECORD DECK Bando beogram RX2 with MM5 cartridge with preamp if required £300 01695 720904

DUNKIRK DVD this is a BBC version staring Benedict Cumberbatch watched once and returned to box. in excellent condition like new £8 01704220356

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COFFEE MAKER stand & pods, Nescafe £15. IPhone 4, ex con £45ono IPhone 5, good condition £85ono 0151 5260731

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RECLINER CHAIR Swivel, dark red fabric new condition with matching footstool £60 ono 01704 892346

RECLINER CHAIR ex con manual, fabric, need space hence price, buyer removes £60 01704 220938

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LLADRO FIGURE Very large piece of Lladro, make great present, perfect condition, stamped underneath, £150 01704 573121

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Please submit your c.v for the attention of Sue McDermott to
info@jcasolicitors.co.uk
If you do not hear from us within 10 days, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

Following a recent expansion of our excellent Home Service we are now recruiting to a number of roles within the South Sefton area of Liverpool. By joining the New Directions team we can offer you the following benefits:

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HOME CARE WORKERS

Based in the Waterloo, Litherland, Netherton and Bootle areas providing support and assistance to people of all ages in their home. The role includes personal care, such as: washing, dressing and bathing. No qualifications are necessary. The ability to work evenings and weekends would be advantageous.

REABLEMENT WORKERS

Would you like to work out in the community, supporting and motivating individuals to develop or regain their life skills and confidence following a stay in hospital, illness, crisis, fall at home or change in circumstances in relation to themselves or their carers? Day, evening and weekend shifts so must be flexible. Driver with access to their own vehicle is essential.

CARE CO-ORDINATOR

Based in our Home Service, this is a full time role at our newly refurbished office in Netherton. Reporting directly to the Deputy Home Services Manager you would play a support role in the planning and management of care staff rotas and act as a point of contact for staff, service users, families and other professionals, reporting any changes in service user circumstances or concerns about their welfare. This is a busy and at times demanding job, but equally rewarding. An understanding of the planning and provision of care to adults and an ability to communicate effectively with colleagues and/or other professionals is essential.

TRUSTED ASSESSOR

Carry out initial assessments to determine the needs of vulnerable people who live in their own homes, developing and reviewing care plans as appropriate. A key part of this role will involve identifying and minimising risks in the provision of service user care. Reporting directly to the Deputy Home Services Manager and contributing to the day to day management of the service. Diploma in Health & Social Care Level 3 or equivalent qualification in Health and Social Care is essential.

For information on any of the above roles, please contact Lorna Irving, Reablement & Domiciliary Care Manager on 0151 347 7834 for further information.

New directions
Supporting the most vulnerable

NIGHT CARE WORKER SOUTHPORT

Working 20 hours per week in one of our supported houses based in Southport, you will provide support to adults with learning disabilities and additional complex needs. You will attend to the care needs of the service users, as necessary and undertake certain domestic duties that can be performed during the night hours. Experience of working in a similar care setting is essential. If you have worked with people with learning disabilities who have complex needs, it would be advantageous.

For more information regarding this role and the rota please contact Beth Humphries, Assistant Service Manager on 01704 829514

CARE WORKERS

(6 month fixed term contracts) SOUTHPORT

We have several vacancies for Care Workers at Chase Heys, a 24/7 service that provides intermediate care, respite and day support for older people. Duties include: assisting with personal care, mobility, grooming, dressing, eating and drinking, social interaction and therapy. You will work shifts to include daytime, evenings and weekends and must have experience of caring for the elderly. A Diploma in Health & Social Care Level 2 or equivalent would be advantageous.

For more information regarding this role and the rota please contact Lesley Henderson, Service Manager on 01704 214279

NIGHT CARE WORKER

(6 month fixed term contract)SOUTHPORT

Working 15 hours per week within the night care staff team at Chase Heys, you will be required to attend to the care needs of the service users and undertake certain domestic duties during the night hours. Experience of working within a care role is essential. Experience of working with vulnerable people within a care environment and Level 2 Diploma in Health & Social Care would be advantageous.

For more information regarding this role and the rota please contact Lesley Henderson, Service Manager on 01704 214279

GENERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

AINSDALE

Part time (14.40 hours per week) to carry out a range of domestic duties including general cleaning, serving of meals and refreshments.

For more information regarding this role and the rota please contact Salwa Moustafa, Service Manager on 01704 571026

To apply for any of our vacancies, visit our Job Opportunities page at www.ndirections.org. Alternatively, you can contact the HR team on 0151 705 0300 for an application pack to be sent out in the post.

An enhanced DBS disclosure is required for all of the above posts.
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Announcements

DEATHS

BARTON MAUREEN
1st March 2018
Peacefully aged 87 years
Loving Wife of the late Eddie, devoted Mum of Wendy and Pam, dear Mother-in-law of Terry and John, cherished Grandma of Holly, James and Sarah will be sadly missed by her Family and Friends. Funeral service will take place at Christ Church Newburgh on Friday 23rd March at 11.30am followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request donation if required for British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

COAKLEY THOMAS MICHAEL
On 7th March 2018
Suddenly in Hospital
aged 76 years
The Son of the late Thomas and Ellen, Tommy will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 19th March at 10:00am, family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Help the Heroes. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

LESTER BARBARA
4th March 2018
Peacefully aged 76 years
Loving Wife of the late Norman, devoted Mum of Amanda, David and Paul. Dear Mother in Law of John and Jayne, cherished Nan and Great Nan of all her Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 20th March at 10.00am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for The Dogs Trust. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

DEATHS

BAKER SUE
11th March 2018
Aged 71 years
Loving wife of Mike, devoted Mum of Amanda and Matthew, Mother-in-law of Stewart. Much loved Nana of Jack, Ryan and Jeyda, Sister of Peter and Angela. Sue will be greatly missed by all her friends and family. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 16th March at 1:20pm. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

MONK DENNIS
27th February 2018
Loving Husband to Irene, Dad to Steve, Gary & Paul. Grandad to Claire, Adam, Karl, Brandon & Rachel

Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium Monday 19th March 11:30am

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone: 01772 811165

TWIST NANCY
Passed away
4th March 2018
Aged 92
Nancy died at The Royal Liverpool Hospital and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral Service to take place at Anfield Crematorium on Thursday 22nd March at 11.20am.

Family Flowers only please.

Further enquiries to Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Lancashire PR4 6RJ 01772 811165

DEATHS

ARNOLD JANE (JEAN)
11th March 2018
Aged 91 years
Reunited with her beloved Husband Harry. Dearly loved Aunty to Paul, Stephen, Eric, Graham and their families. Janes family would like to thank Courtfield Lodge for their care and attention. Sadly missed and fondly remembered by all her family and friends. Funeral to take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 26th March 2018 at 11.20am. Family flowers only. If desired donations to Alzheimers UK. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997.

DUNN JAMES (JIM)
26th February 2018
Peacefully, aged 78 years
Beloved Husband of Ann. Much loved Dad of Kevin and David and Father-in-law of Fiona and Vivienne. Will be sadly missed by his Grandchildren James, Kevin, Amy and Vickie. Funeral service at St Peters Church, Freshfield on Thursday 15th March at 1.30pm followed by cremation at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Merseyside Asbestos Victim Support c/o Coyne Bros, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE. Tel 01704 873899.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

Announcements

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DEATHS

BREEZE BRIDIE

On 6th March 2018

Aged 94 years

R.I.P.

Most loved Wife, Mum, Gran, Great Gran and friend to many.
She will be greatly missed by all.
"God saw you getting weary,
he did what he thought best,
he put his arms around you
and took you home to rest".
Funeral service will take place at St. Teresas RC Church Birkdale, on Friday 16th March at 12:00 noon, followed by the interment at Duke Street Cemetery.
Dress code:- smart, casual with colour at Bridies request.
Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be made for Ward 14b. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG.
Tel: 01704 214118

AIRD DORA (WAS SWIFT)

Suddenly at home on 21st February

Aged 77 years

Wife of the late Robert Aird. Beloved Mother of Paul and John. Grandmother of Natalie and Siobhán and Great Grandmother of Callum and Jessica. Will be greatly missed. Funeral service 12.30pm on Wednesday 21st March at St John Stone Ainsdale 1.20pm Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to be made to Freshfield Animal Rescue Centre.
All enquiries to Dean Bros Funeral Directors of Formby 01704 872023.

DEATHS

LACEY MARGARET

1st March 2018

Peacefully in hospital
Aged 70 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of Frank, loving Mum of Margaret, Christine and David, dear Mother in law of John and Glen, devoted Grandma of Martin, Tanya, Rosie (Rosebud), Luke, Callum, Jake and Abi-Rose and great Grandma to Lilly-May, Leon-John and Ava-Kenni. And a special mention to Auntie Anna and Niece Natalie.
Requiem mass at St Mary's RC Church, Skelmersdale on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 10:00am followed by interment at West Lancashire Cemetery, Burscough. Floral Tributes welcome.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

CARR ELIZABETH JOAN

8th March 2018

Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale
aged 74 years

Much loved Sister of Alan and dearly loved Mum of Michael and Nic. Requiem Mass and interment at St Richards RC Church, Skelmersdale on Friday 16th March 2018 at 12noon.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired for The Alzheimers Society.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

TIPPING CHARLES ROBERT (BOB)

7th March 2018
Passed away peacefully in Springfield Court Nursing Home

Devoted Husband of Ethel, much loved Father of Jeff, dear Father-in-law of Christine, and a loving Grandad of Emma and Rachael. Loved and missed by all the family. Requiem Mass at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Aughton on Monday 19th March at 11.45am, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for the Alzheimer's Society and North West Cancer Research. Donations & further enquiries please to Sally Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ.
Tel 01695 424888.

MCKENZIE EDWARD (EDDIE)

6 March 2018
Aged 76 years

Our beloved Eddie fell asleep surrounded by his loving family. Much loved Husband and "rock" to Sandra. Eddie was everything to us all and much loved by his many family and friends. He will leave a void in our lives and be so sadly missed.
Sleep peacefully now Eddie.
Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 19th March at 11.20am. Family flowers only please.
The family are gratefully receiving donations for "Ward 7A, Southport & Ormskirk Hospital."
Further enquiries c/o Broadbents & Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Birkdale PR8 4AG.
Special thanks to Ward 7A for their exceptional care.

DEATHS

KING EILEEN ELIZABETH

Passed away peacefully on 12th March 2018 aged 80 years of Ormskirk

Dearly Loved Wife of the late James, Devoted Mum of Sandra, Sara and Simon. Much Loved Nan of Sophie and Leah and Great Grandchildren Ava, Marcus and Luna.
Funeral Mass at St. Annes Church Ormskirk on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 2.00 pm followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium where everyone is welcome to attend.
Family flowers only by request, but donations if so desired for Alzheimer's Society Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.
Tel: 01695 424888.

BROWN NORMAN

7th March 2018

Peacefully at home aged 87 years

The dearly loved Husband of Audrey, loving Dad of Tony, Daughter in law Christine, Grandaughter Karen, Grandson Gavin and Great Grandaughter Belle.
Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 1:45 pm. Family flowers only please, but the family request that donations in Normans memory be made to Queenscourt Hospice, Southport.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ.
Telephone 01772 811165

DEATHS

LOWE BERYL

Formerly from Lydiate
Passed away peacefully on 8th March 2018
at Courtfield Lodge
aged 93 years

Reunited with her beloved Husband George. Much loved Auntie and Sister in law Beryl will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St. Thomas' Church, Lydiate on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 11am, Cremation following at Thornton Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only. If desired, donations to Alzheimers Research UK, care of Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 2EY
Tel:01695 572997

To place a family **announcement** please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

DALEY SAMUEL

27th February 2018
My perfect Dad

I was truly blessed to have you as my Dad.
There are no words to describe how precious you are to me.
You have always looked after me, made me happy and made me laugh.
We had such a special bond, Dad and daughter,
my best friend.
Not a day will go by when I don't miss you, think about you or talk about you.
Life will never be the same again.
I love you Dad.
Thank you for being the best role model and grandad to my sons Bradley and Sam who both adore you.
Your loving daughter Maria.

DEATHS

DOBSON THOMAS GUY

4th March 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 94 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Partner of Jean, loving Brother of Hazel and much loved Uncle of Christine, David and families. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 10:40am.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired for North West Cancer Research.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H. Hardman & Co, Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

SHOLICAR RICHARD

23rd February 2018
Suddenly at his home in Ormskirk
aged 76 years

The dearly loved Brother of Dennis and Margaret, dear Brother in law of John and much loved Uncle of Kate and Sarah.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 19th March 2018 at 10:45am.
Family flowers only please, doantions if desired for R.S.P.B
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

DALEY SAMUEL

27th February 2018

I'm not saying goodbye, I'm just saying have a good rest. I'll see you again one day and we can be together again.
Treat this as a holiday on your own for now, I give you permission to go and I'll be along soon. Tell all of your mates your jokes up there but save some for me. You're my hero and I'll never ever forget you.
I love you, Sam.
Your loving wife, Pat.

GERRARD DOROTHY (DOT)

4th March 2018
Peacefully aged 80 years

Beloved Daughter of the Late Henry & Dorothy
Much loved Sister of Gerald also Billy, Jimmy, Margaret, Joan & Henry (All Deceased)
Sister in Law of Teresa, Clare & the late Joe.
Loved Auntie to all her Nephews & Nieces.
Service & Cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Monday March 19th at 1.20 pm.
All Flowers & Enquires to David Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 77-79 Bridge Road, Litherland
Tel 0151 928 6665

HARRISON PETER THOMAS

7th March 2018

Aged 81 years

Loving Husband of Olive. Beloved Dad of Kev, Pete and Cliff.
Much loved Father in law of Colette and Jan.
Cherished Grandad, Great Grandad. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Service at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 19th March at 10.30am. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Service.
01695 731199

DEATHS

YOW FRANCES CATHERINE

On 8th March 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family
Aged 91 years

Loving Wife of the late Dack, devoted Mum of David, Stephen and Karen, Dear Mother in law of Tony. Cherished Nan and Great Nan of all her Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends, family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for St Michaels in the City Church, Liverpool.
For funeral details and further enquiries contact Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel: 01695 559868.

MURROW ALAN MICHAEL

16th February 2018
Peacefully at home in Crosby
Age 69 years

Dearly loved by his family and many friends. Never a sad face when he was in the room. Happy happy memories will live on. Funeral service at St Lukes Church Crosby on Tuesday 20th March at 10.45pm followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations to Woodlands Hospice or Freshfield Animal Rescue c/o H. Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE.
Tel 0151 924 4805.

CORFIELD DONALD (DON)

Passed away
6th March 2018
aged 85 years
of Aughton

Dearly loved Husband of Dorothy, much loved Dad of Stephanie and Steve.
Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 10.45am.
Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for The British Heart Foundation. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.
Tel: 01695 424888.

Announcements

Births · Deaths · Marriages · Engagements · Congratulations · In Memorium · Anniversaries

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DEATHS

PILKINGTON GLADYS MAY (BA HONS)

Passed away peacefully on 7th March 2018 aged 90 years of Ormskirk.

Dearly loved wife of the late Raymond. Much loved Mum of John (decd), Brian, Beryl, Ruth and Helen. Loved by all her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. "Lord put your arms around her & kiss her smiling face, for she is very special and can never be replaced" Cremation to take place at West Lancs Crematorium on Monday 26th March at 1.00pm, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Emmanuel Methodist Church Ormskirk at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for Cancer Research U.K. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888

DALY LILY

7th March 2018 Peacefully in hospital aged 72 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Andrew, loving Sister of Jackie, dear Sister in law of Eileen and much loved Auntie to Denise and John. Funeral service and interment at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Monday 19th March 2018 at 1:30pm. Floral tributes welcome. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co. Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

SARATH AUDREY ANNE

6th March 2018
Aged 81 years

Beloved Wife of the late Bill Sarath. Funeral service to take place at St Peter and St Pauls RC Church, Crosby at 11.30am on Friday 16th March followed by cremation at Thornton Crematorium at 12.40pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for Greenheyes CIC c/o H Leslie Humphreys Funeral Directors, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. 0151 924 4805.

ARCHER DR JOHN EDWARD

Suddenly on 24th February 2018 Aged 66.

Beloved Husband of Helen, proud and devoted Father of James and Tom and much loved by Lorena and Katie. John will be greatly missed by all his family and his many friends near and far. Funeral service to take place at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton on Friday 16th March 2018 at 1:15pm followed by private committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations are being gratefully received for Amnesty International and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WHITTLE JOE

The family would like to acknowledge the Horseshoe, Queens Inn & Eureka Public Houses for their help in fundraising in memory of Joe and to support his family.

The immense number of friends and people's lives touched by Joe was displayed at his funeral, thank you all for attending.

The family would like to thank everyone for the kind words of sympathy and support at such a difficult time. Appreciation to Peter Goulding for his kind ministrations.

The generous donations to MIND from everyone.

A final thank you to Claire & Dave at Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors. Nothing was too much trouble and their care was exemplary.

WALTON KEN

Val and family would like to express their thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their lovely cards and messages of sympathy and support. Thank you also for the donations to the North West Air Ambulance. A very special thank you to Fred for his comforting words and lovely service. Thank you to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Southport for your amazing turnout for Ken. Also thank you to Margaret from Skelmersdale Funeral Services of your kindness and support. Also to Briars Hall for their hospitality

LOTTERY RESULTS

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344041	62880
25425	17523

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WRIGHT PHILIP

The family would like to thank all who attended the funeral and for all their kind words and sympathy. Special thanks to Steve Lamin for his kind ministrations. Thank you to Hesketh Bank Bowling Club for their warm hospitality. Also appreciation to Dave and Claire at Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for their support through a difficult time.

CROOKHAM IAN

Claire, Zoe, Tom and Beth would like to express their heartfelt thanks to family, friends and colleagues for all of their support and love during their recent sad loss of a wonderful Husband, Dad, Son, Brother and Friend. Thanks also for the lovely cards, messages, flowers, donations to MIND and Call4Backup in memory of Ian, and to Sandra Howles for her kind words of comfort during the celebration of his life. We are overwhelmed by the love received and we know Ian would have been too.

PRAYERS

OH MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF MOUNT CARMEL Fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, blessed Mother of the son of God; Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour in my necessity (mention your request) There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (three times). Holy Mary I place this prayer in your hands (three times). Follow this with 9 hail Marys three times a day for three days to publish when prayers are answered. Prayers answered, many thanks. P.P.

MOTHERS DAY MEMORIAM

JONES LINDA MARIE

On Mothers Day

I'm sending a dove to heaven, with a parcel on it's wings, be careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things, inside is a million kisses, wrapped up in a million hugs, to say how much I miss you, and to send you all my love. I hold you close within my heart, and there you will remain, to walk with me throughout my life, until we meet again. Goodnight and God Bless Mum, your broken hearted Daughter Sharon (TC) xx

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

IN MEMORIAM

SHAREA ANGEL HOPE HAY

13/03/2012

A much loved and missed Daughter, Granddaughter, Great Grandaughter, Niece and Cousin, taken far to soon. Muched Loved And Never Forgotten

XXX

IN MEMORIAM

ALLEN DEREK BERNARD

15th March 2017

Sorrow is part of the cost of love but,many precious memories of that love will always remain in my heart.

Miss you lots

Wife Dorothy
XX

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15
APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0103/COU Change of use from a hair salon to hot food unit and installation of extraction flue on rear elevation at Unit 2 , Fairstead Court, Fairstead, Birch Green, Skelmersdale.
2018/0149/FUL Replacement of windows to Lancaster Barn at Lancaster Barn, Lancaster Lane, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0191/FUL Conversion/change of use of existing previous vacant workshop building and redundant barn into 4 number residential dwellings including part additional first floors, roof lights, roof replacement, windows throughout and amenity space including application for access and parking provision at Lawns Farm, 40 Lawns Avenue, Orrell.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981 applies.
2018/0237/FUL Alterations to the front elevation (north) for the insertion of roller shutters together with the change of use from B1 to B1 and/or B2 and or B8 at Unit 1, M58 Distribution Centre, Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale.
2018/0243/FUL Variation of Condition No's 11 and 17 of planning permission 2017/0492/ARM relating to the Licensed Bat and Barn Owl Survey and Assessment and the approved landscaping scheme at Henry Alty Ltd, Station Road, Hesketh Bank.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981 applies.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 14th March 2018
PDNOT988

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for Variation of The Coach House of premises licence

We The Coach House of 144 Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale, Lancs, WN88BX have applied to West Lancashire Borough Council to vary the premise license, the variations applied for are: Hours of operation and to amend the following licensable activities: playing of live music (1200 - 0030) and recorded music (0900 - 0130) - sale of alcohol (0900 - 0130) - the hours of operation open to the public (0900 - 0200).

The application may be inspected at West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can be also obtained from the Councils website http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/licensing

Any 'interested Party' may make representations in writing to the Council regarding the application before the 04/04/18. It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and on summary conviction anyone doing so is liable to a fine of £5,000.

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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

OPD European Ltd of Unit G2, Peel House, Peel Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 9PT is applying for a licence to use Unit G2, Peel House, Peel Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 9PT as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers..

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for new application of premises licence.
We High Street Stores of 97 High Street Skelmersdale WN8 8AT have applied to West Lancashire Borough Council for new application of premises licence.
Hours of operation (opening hours) 7.30am until 10pm and to add the following licensable activities: the sale by retail of alcohol.
The application may be inspected at West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale WN8 8EE between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can be also obtained from the Councils website http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/licensing.
Any interested party may make representations in writing to the Council regarding the application before the 6th April.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

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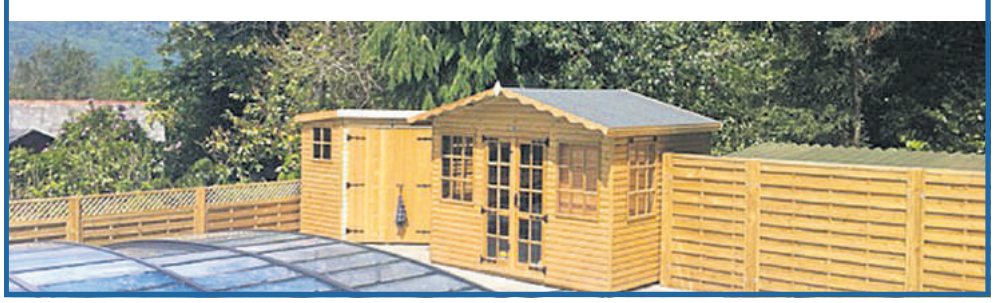

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FORGET everything you've ever learned about quality over quantity for a moment. When you wade into the world of the fabulously wealthy, less is usually a *lot* more.

The price you'd pay for a truly palatial pad in Kensington, Liverpool, for instance, would barely get you a one-bed flat in its London namesake. A main course at an upmarket restaurant in Marylebone or Mayfair costs more than I'd normally spend on a couple's three-course night out in this part of the world.

And don't get me started on £6 pints. It's the same with cars too, as anyone who's ever ordered a Porsche GT3 and traded rear seats for roll cages and stereos for stripped-back carbonfibre will know. Which is why I have to admire Land Rover for unveiling its new, ultra-luxury spinoff of the Range Rover at the Geneva Motor Show last week. There's lots of "contemporary design" and "up-to-the-minute technology" breaking up the slabs of wood and acres of leather you'd expect on the inside, and they are only building 999 of them, but what you can't fail to notice is that for your £240,000 asking price you get two fewer doors. Automotive proof that less really is more in the world of cars, too.

What it does prove, however, is that if the money's there then it's not impossible to convert a five-door car into a three-door one; which makes me wonder why three-door cars much further down the pecking order are all being quietly killed off.

The Renault Sport Clio – a car you'd expect to arrive sans rear doors, because that way the body's stiffer – is now only available in five-door form, and it's the same story with the Ford Focus, and the Honda Civic. Word has it that the three-door version of Audi's A3 is being pensioned off, too. Which is a real shame, because for all the awkward fumbling you have with sliding seats forward and climbing through narrow gaps there is a youthful sense of fun about three-door hatches and it's sad to see it slowly disappearing.

The Peugeot 205 GTI just wouldn't have had the same frisson of mischief had it been equipped with five doors, and nor would Renault's Clio Williams or Citroen's AX GT. They all had five-door cousins, of course, but it was worth eschewing the practicality for a stiffer bodyshell and cleaner looks. Surely if the argument works for the Range Rover all these years later – especially being positioned as a luxury spinoff – it'll work for the next Ford Focus RS or Honda Civic Type-R, too?

It's exactly the sort of petrolhead argument I'm hoping to win next time I visit the pub.

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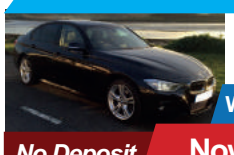

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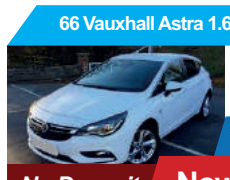

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• Alloys
• 38000 Miles

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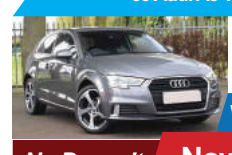
63 Audi A3 Tdi Sport 5 Dr



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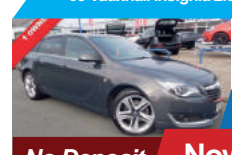
65 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 Cdti Tourer Sri



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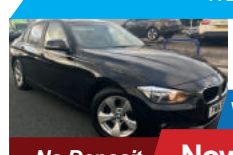
14 BMW 316 D 4 Dr



• 56000 Miles
• Priv Glass
• Alloys

Was £12,495

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66 Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Zetec

• 1 Owner
• 19" Alloys
• Priv Glass

Was £16,995

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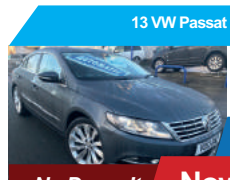
13 VW Passat CC 2.0 Tdi Auto



• Leather
• Sat Nav
• Priv Glass

Was £12,495

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66 Ford Focus 1.0 T Zetec Nav 5 Dr

• Sat Nav
• App Pack
• 18000 Miles

Was £12,695

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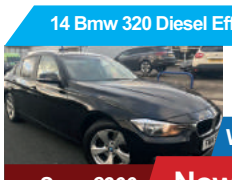
14 Bmw 320 Diesel Efficiency 4 Dr



• 1 Owner
• Leather
• FSH

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64 Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Titanium

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• 1 Owner
• Priv Glass

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• FSH
• Sat Nav

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• Priv Glass
• 7 Seats

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• 43000 Miles
• Sat Nav

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• Leather

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• Blue • 51358 Miles

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• Black • 69854 Miles

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• Grey • 49368 Miles

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15 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 3Dr 1.2 70PS Limited Edition, Asteroid Grey **34170 Miles** £7499
15 Reg Vauxhall Adam 1.4 87PS Jam Urban Pack, White **24265 Miles** £7499
65 Reg Vauxhall Viva 5Dr 1.0i 75PS SL, Grey **2896 Miles** £7500
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14 Reg Vauxhall Astra 5Dr 1.4i Vvt 100PS SRi, Blue **27424 Miles** £7999
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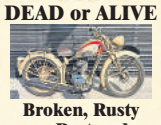

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Jordan Darr scores Skelemrsdale's first goal at Trafford. Picture by John Driscoll

Skem twice come from behind to rescue point

Trafford 2
Skelmersdale United 2

SKELMERSDALE twice fought back from behind to rescue a vital point in their fight for survival, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

Skelmersdale travelled to play-off chasing Trafford on Saturday hoping to bounce back after an abject performance when losing 2-1 at home to bottom placed Goole two weeks ago.

In the eighth minute a Jack Dorney through ball almost put former Skem player Sean Miller in for Trafford, but Skelmersdale goalkeeper Callum Lee Roberts came off his line and grabbed the ball.

Trafford scored on the half-hour. A sweeping diagonal ball found Miller in space on the left. He put the ball low into the penalty area to Burns about six yards out who tapped the ball home to make it 1-0.

Tom Molyneux and Bakkor went close before Skelmersdale struck a fully warranted equaliser in the 41st minute when Jordan Darr popped up in space and steered the ball past Shenton. It was a textbook example of running off the ball and concise finishing.

#	Team	Pl	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
18.	Ramsbottom United	28	6	1	5	2	4	10	8	5	15	38	47	-9	29
19.	Brighouse Town	33	3	3	10	5	1	11	8	4	21	43	78	-35	28
20.	Skelmersdale United	32	4	3	9	1	7	8	5	10	17	38	68	-30	25
21.	Ossett Albion	28	4	5	6	1	2	10	5	7	16	28	59	-31	22
22.	Goole AFC	33	3	4	9	2	2	13	5	6	22	37	85	-48	21

Skelmersdale remain in 20th place in the table

Jack Dorney had a good chance for Trafford in added time but Roberts made a simple task of ending that and the 1-1 half-time scoreline was the fair one.

Trafford went back into the lead in the 50th minute. Neville, who was by far the host's best player, beat his man on the left and crossed to the far post. Ally Brown got in a header and Roberts made a diving save, but the assistant's flag signalled a goal.

Like the first-half going behind was the catalyst for another wave of Skelmersdale dominance.

Skelmersdale's approach play was excellent and they equalised from a corner. Barrigan swung in the ball and it dropped to Phil Mooney on the six yard line, who instantly put a left-foot shot into the net to notch Skem's second equaliser of the afternoon.

Right on the 90th minute Skelmersdale had a great chance after the hardworking Bakkor stole the ball from Trafford's Scott Sephton. He slotted the ball through to Tunde Owalabi who was kept out by a quality save at his feet by Shenton.

When the final whistle went the result was probably a disappointment to both teams.

After the match manager Dave Powell said: "We had created chances, moved the ball quickly, all the things we have been working on in training over the last few weeks and I am delighted to get a draw against one of the top sides in the league.

"But most of all the character and belief the lads have shown to equalise twice and almost grab it at the end was fantastic."

Linnets set for crunch clash at bottom of table

BURSCOUGH face a crucial clash at the bottom of the table as they host Barnton this Saturday.

Barnton face almost certain relegation after losing 26 of their 33 league games so far, meaning Dave Sutton's team will not get a better chance to get three points.

However, Burscough were without three important members of their side last week against Runcorn Town and it would be a big boost to get them back.

Meanwhile, Skelmersdale will host Colne this Saturday. Colne are in mid-table but have shown some tremendous form since Christmas, lifting themselves up the table to the brink of the play-off positions.

The position as regards relegation in Skelmersdale's division was made clearer last week when the clubs were told by the league that one team will be relegated.

At the same meeting it was also announced that from next season the Evo-Stik League will abandon their North/South format in Division One and make it an East/West split instead.

It is still unclear in Burscough's case as to what the North West Counties will be made up of next season.

Linnets show spirit but lack of firepower leads to heavy defeat

Burscough 2
Runcorn Town 5

BURSCOUGH conceded five goals to one of the league's "big guns" in a difficult afternoon.

Runcorn went into a 4-0 lead before a plucky Linnets team pulled back a couple of goals to give the scoreline a look that better reflected the balance of play.

The promotion chasing visitors took the lead after just five minutes via former Cammell Laird forward Craig Cairns.

Runcorn were making something of a whirlwind start and in the 20th minute it was Cairns turn to become provider, holding the ball up then setting up an onrushing Brazel, who swept the ball into the Burscough net to make it 2-0.

Runcorn looked a very determined side and they made it 3-0 just before the interval, Brazel getting his second with a powerful header from a corner.

Cairns grabbed his second of the game to make it 4-0 inside three minutes.

Chad Whyte pulled a goal back from the penalty spot for his 14th goal of the season.

Runcorn scored a fifth and Cairns grabbed his fourth hat-trick of the season.

Burscough fought on and bagged their second consolation of the game just before the end. Terry Cummings heading the ball home after an excellent cross from the right that followed a good build-up.

It was never going to be an easy one for Burscough and was not a game that they were expected to get much from.

#	Team	Pl	HW	HD	HL	AW	AD	AL	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
17.	Burscough	32	6	3	9	3	2	9	9	5	18	50	76	-26	32
18.	Abbey Hey	29	3	2	10	6	2	6	9	4	16	46	62	-16	31
19.	Irlam	26	5	3	6	3	2	7	8	5	13	39	49	-10	29
20.	Maine Rd	31	6	0	12	3	1	9	9	1	21	44	87	-43	28
21.	AFC Liverpool	29	5	1	8	2	4	9	7	5	17	55	65	-10	26
22.	AFC Darwen	27	1	5	7	2	1	11	3	6	18	32	90	-58	15
23.	Barnton	33	0	3	12	1	3	14	1	6	26	48	126	-78	9

Burscough are four points clear of the bottom four

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